

# THE TIMES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 1998

http://www.the-times.co.uk

No. 66,120

TODAY  
**20p**

**COULD THE PRINCESS HAVE BEEN SAVED?**

An exclusive new investigation

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TODAY  
**20p**

## Heath refuses to join Blair and Thatcher in tribute to Powell



Powell: hailed by Hague as original Thatcherite

By Andrew Pierce  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ENOCH POWELL, one of the most charismatic politicians of his generation, died yesterday, aged 85. Even in death he continued to provoke controversy.

Tony Blair and Baroness Thatcher led the tributes to a man they described as one of the great figures of 20th century politics. "There will never be another Enoch," said Lady Thatcher.

But another former Prime Minister, Sir Edward Heath, who dismissed Mr Powell from the Shadow Cabinet after his "Rivers of

Blood" speech in April 1968, pointedly refused to comment. Michael Foot, another political contemporary, also declined to say anything. Mr Powell was also criticised by the Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

Mr Powell had been ill for some time. In a statement his widow, Pamela, said: "Mr Enoch Powell died peacefully early this morning after being taken to King Edward Hospital. He had been suffering from Parkinson's disease."

In the past few months Mr Powell, once a brilliant academic, had great difficulty in walking and was rarely seen outside his London

home. But although his voice weakened, his illness had robbed him of none of his incisiveness.

Lady Thatcher last night heaped praise on her former colleague. She said: "He was magnetic. Listening to his speeches was an unforgettable privilege. He was one of those rare people who made a difference and whose moral compass led us in the right direction."

The Prime Minister, in a statement issued through Downing Street, said: "However controversial his views, he was one of the great figures of twentieth century British politics, gifted with a brilliant mind. However much we disagreed with

many of his views, there was no doubting the strength of his convictions or their sincerity, or his tenacity in pursuing them, regardless of his own political self-interest."

William Hague, the Tory leader, described Mr Powell as the original Thatcherite who had blazed the trail which enabled Lady Thatcher to break the post-war consensus that prosperity was driven by government intervention and state control.

He said: "He spoke his mind without fear or favour. This made for a turbulent political career. There were disagreements, sometimes profound, between Enoch

Powell and the Conservative Party. Nevertheless, his contribution has helped to shape the history of our party and our times. He will not be forgotten."

But Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "He was a multi-faceted politician. However, the lasting impression that he has left is that fundamentally he broke the positive political consensus that was emerging that Commonwealth immigration would be welcome. He was someone who could have provided leadership to the higher ground of politics. Instead he appealed to the lowest common de-

ominator." But there was support for Mr Powell from other leaders of the ethnic communities. Tara Mukherjee, president of the Confederation of Indian Organisations UK, said: "Mr Powell loved India and the Indian people. He was not a racist but an extreme nationalist. "Nationalism is an important prerequisite for the progress of a nation but blind adherence to nationalism as propagated by Mr Powell is a

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## Iraq raids briefing at Forces HQ

By Ian Brodie, Nicholas Wood and Mark Henderson

HIGH-RANKING Service chiefs were summoned to a secret briefing at the Forces Command Centre before dawn yesterday, in a fresh sign of military preparations for action against Iraq. The British end of any military operation would be directed from the headquarters in Northwood, Middlesex.

The Ministry of Defence would not comment on the meeting, saying that Britain was still seeking a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis. Tony Blair, however, again emphasised his resolve to act firmly against President Saddam Hussein over his refusal to allow UN weapons inspectors to carry out their work.

The Prime Minister told the Labour Party Local Government Conference in Scarborough: "The UK, like everyone else, wants the current crisis resolved by diplomatic means. But we have to be realistic about the nature of the man we are dealing with. Saddam Hussein has lied and cheated at every turn. He is a man without moral scruples."

"This is a dictator, developing an arsenal from which the weapons inspectors have already uncovered 38,000 chemical weapons, a vast biological warfare plant, 48 scud missiles and attempts at nuclear capability. This is a dictator who has sufficient chemical weapons to wipe out the world's population. These weapons must be destroyed for the future peace of the world."

Madeline Albright, the American Secretary of State, also threatened that any bombardment of Iraq would be substantial, sustained and heavy. "It will be all these things," she said.

The purpose of the strikes would be to diminish Saddam's capacity to replenish his stock of chemical and biological weapons and to threaten his neighbours. Her remarks were, however, carefully designed to reduce expectations that an attack would topple Saddam.

Two weeks ago, President Clinton

had used his State of the Union speech to tell Saddam "We are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again." But he used more circumspect language during his press conference with Mr Blair last Friday, saying that a bombing would aim to "substantially reduce or delay Iraq's ability to develop and use unconventional weapons". It was that formula that Ms Albright followed yesterday.

She did say that time was running out for a diplomatic solution. Asked how much time Saddam had to comply with UN resolutions, she said: "It's not days and it's not months - it's in the weeks category."

The expectation in Washington is that the bombing would begin late next week, rather than at the weekend as earlier thought. Saudi Arabia's refusal to allow its bases to be used for attacks, and William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, was yesterday trying to persuade King Fahd to change that policy. Ms Albright failed in a similar mission last week during a six-hour meeting with the Crown Prince. But she expressed confidence yesterday that in the end the Saudis would "do what was necessary".

In case they do not, Mr Cohen has ordered more F117 Stealth fighters and B52 bombers to the region so that the allies would not depend on combat aircraft now in Saudi Arabia. The B52s will be based at the British island of Diego Garcia.

Iraq's UN ambassador, Nizar Hamdon, used American television yesterday to float an offer of extending a visit by UN inspectors from a month to 60 days. But America's ambassador to the UN said that Iraq was in no position to dictate terms; the UN wanted unfettered access to all suspect sites.

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The Duchess of Windsor's shoe collection goes under the hammer this month. So will other contents of her house in Paris, which Dodi Fayed planned to make his home with the Princess of Wales

## Princess 'would be alive had she been rushed to hospital'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE life of Diana, Princess of Wales might have been saved had French medical workers rushed her to hospital instead of trying to treat her at the scene of her fatal car crash, according to an extraordinary new book being serialised in *The Times* from tomorrow.

The book, the first comprehensive account of the Paris crash that killed the Princess and Dodi Fayed, also offers evidence that the couple were to be engaged to be married that night and that after their wedding they had planned to move into Windsor Villa, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's Paris home.

*Death of a Princess: An Investigation*, by the *Time* magazine journalists Tom Sanction and Scott MacLeod, also provides proof of a daredevil streak in Henri Paul, the driver who died with the couple. This includes documented evidence of past recklessness while flying and will add strength to the argument that Mr Fayed should have had doubts about his suitability for such sensitive service.

The most sensational aspect of the book, however, must be its contention that the grievously injured Princess might have lived had she been taken to hospital sooner. Reports so far have focused on the

torn pulmonary vein as the main cause of death. Yet medical experts to whom the authors spoke say that the fact that she was still alive when she arrived at hospital suggests that the vein could not have been completely ruptured. An unnamed thoracic surgeon at a Paris hospital says that people die very quickly if the vein is badly ruptured. But the Princess survived for nearly two hours.

According to the book, it took an hour and 45 minutes for her to reach the operating theatre because doctors on the scene followed French text-book procedures, which dictate a maximum of on-site attention.

Dr Frédéric Mailliez, the emergency doctor who was the first to reach the scene, said: "The philosophy here is to try to stabilise the patient as much as you can, because travelling with this kind of status can be very dangerous for a patient. So we try to restore a little bit of blood pressure and some other things before we start to drive."

Dr Mailliez also said that it was not uncommon for emergency doctors to tell ambulance drivers to "go slowly". He said: "If you are braking or accelerating, it can be bad for blood pressure, so you have to be very careful." A spokeswoman for the French hospital confirmed to the

authors that the Princess's ambulance "slowed down and rolled gently. It's common sense."

According to the French medical examiner's report, the Princess died of "internal haemorrhaging due to a major chest trauma and a phenomenon of deceleration which caused a rupture of the left pulmonary vein". Yet the head of emergency services at another large hospital in Paris, asserts that the fact that the Princess did not die immediately of a massive haemorrhage indicates that the tear in the pulmonary vein was "either a small one" or that it was partially closed, "perhaps by a bone fragment from a fractured rib". Thus, he says, it might have been possible to save her "with some luck and intelligence".

The strongest criticism of the French doctors comes from Dr John Ochsner, one of America's pre-eminent cardio-vascular surgeons. He said: "If the tear wasn't too big, they could put the patient on a heart-lung machine and just go in and do the repair electively. It's pretty obvious: with that lesion, if you can get them in the hospital and on a heart-

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Objects of desire, page 5  
Anatomy of a death, page 17

## Blair considers Cabinet place for party chief

By Peter Riddell

TONY BLAIR is likely to create a powerful new Cabinet post of spokesman for the whole Government. The holder would also be the key ministerial link to the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister is considering the appointment of a leading politician with a role similar to the Conservative Party chairman, though he or she would not be called party chairman. Whoever is chosen would not have any departmental responsibilities.

The Blair inner circle is being coy about who might fill such a post, though any occupant would have to be both respected and trusted. Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio who is not yet a member of the Cabinet, is already responsible for coordinating the presentation of policy and is widely respected, not least by Mr Blair, for his judgment. But he may have too many enemies to be accepted in such a high profile role.

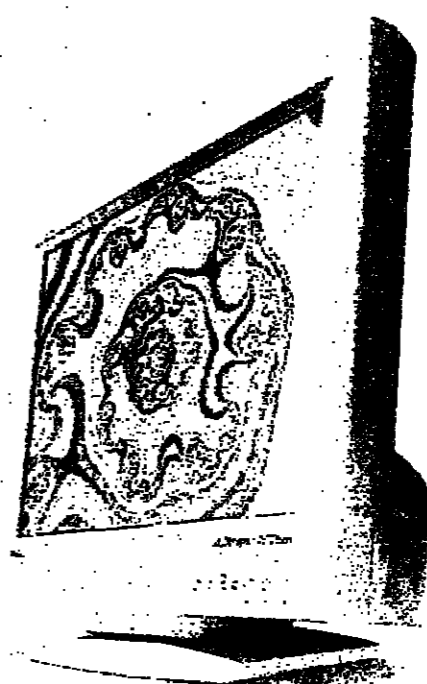
Obvious candidates within the Cabinet include Mr Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Alistair

Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. If Mr Blair wanted to appoint an up-and-coming politician, the list might also include Stephen Byers, the Education Minister, or Alan Milburn, the Health Minister. Both have been involved in policy seminars with leading members of the Clinton Administration.

The creation of such a post during a summer Cabinet reshuffle has emerged from a review of strategy and presentation which Mr Blair undertook with John Prescott, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Jack Straw, Mr Mandelson and his Downing Street advisers. The immediate result has been a campaign to present the Government's overall record and to warn of "two tough years" ahead.

Mr Blair is worried that too many ministers are concentrating solely on their departmental responsibilities, and are not spending enough time explaining and presenting the Government's wider case.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20  
Blair and Clinton, page 20



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# Road tolls shelved as immediate way to ease city jams

### More research is needed into ways to cut car use and raise transport cash, reports Arthur Leathley

ROAD tolls have been dropped by ministers as a short-term solution to city-centre congestion. They have backed away from imposing a daily motoring charge in the face of emerging technical and political difficulties.

A trial toll project in Leicester has brought home to ministers the huge problems they face in convincing motorists they should not drive into city centres and of the cost of providing the degree of public transport necessary to make the toll system acceptable.

Advisers studying the Leicester trial have persuaded ministers that motorists also need much better information about the potential

benefits of road tolls in helping to fund better transport services.

Researchers suggest that in Leicester alone, £70 million needs to be spent improving bus and other services before tolls become acceptable. The trial, which charged motorists up to £6 to drive into the city centre, has also unearthed potential difficulties in ensuring that motorists do not evade the electronic charging system.

The charge has been hailed as potentially a key element in raising money for better transport and

ultimately as a deterrent to motorists who insist on using their cars unnecessarily. However, ministers accept advice that the scheme is not an immediate answer to the problem of city-centre traffic jams and there is no prospect of legislation being drafted before 2000.

They have been told that more than two years' research is needed before legislation is introduced. Transport experts suggest that there is little prospect of a scheme beginning before 2003 if a permit-based system were used or 2005 if a more sophisticated electronic

scheme were introduced. The disclosure of further delays to a scheme originally forecast by the previous Government to begin by the turn of the century may relieve motorists.

However, the absence of a charge that would raise hundreds of millions of pounds increases pressure on ministers to find alternative methods of funding public transport improvements. Although the prospect of daily charges will feature in the transport White Paper to be published in May, Gavin Strang, the Transport

Minister, said last week: "Even if we go down this road at all, this is obviously some way down the track."

He has also dismissed the likelihood of motorway tolling being introduced within ten years. Government officials made clear that legislation would not be introduced before further research had been carried out.

Delays to a daily charging system increase the likelihood of a "car charge" being introduced for driving within a city centre. Such a scheme would probably involve an

annual charge, similar to a car tax disc, being paid by anyone wishing to drive in a city centre. Figures of up to £400 a year have been suggested for drivers wanting to drive in London. However, ministers fear that a high charge could actually encourage motorists into a city centre to get their "money's worth" out of the charge.

Full-scale tolls involve the introduction of beacons that deduct cash amounts from a smart-card or tag in the car. A simpler alternative would use a windscreen permit system allowing city-centre driving

during peak time.

Pioneering research into electronic charging is nearing completion in Leicester, where trials suggest that a £3 daily charge for peak-time driving would deter some 20 per cent of motorists. Although the figures tally with Government estimates, the researchers behind the scheme admit that the eight-month trial has raised many questions.

A 12-month research project is expected to begin soon, examining reaction to such a scheme across the country, especially among the business community which has previously been broadly supportive of charges.

# Cook backs coverage of affair

### Lord Chancellor's proposals to curb media upset by Foreign Secretary's sang-froid, writes Andrew Pierce

ROBIN COOK issued an extraordinary pointed rebuttal yesterday of the Lord Chancellor's call for tougher curbs on the press when he described the revelations over his affair with his Commons secretary as a humbling experience.

The Foreign Secretary, who disclosed that he hoped to marry Gaynor Regan within months, said that the public had a right to know about his marriage break-up. And in a further insult to Lord Irvine of Lairg he made clear that he had no complaints about the media coverage.

The Foreign Secretary, who has been at the centre of the row over press privacy, said: "I have never complained about that press treatment of my life. I did not complain at the time. I have never complained since."

He said that the evidence of the response to the coverage of his personal life was that the public judged politicians by their public duties and not their private lives.

"That is very sensible and I think we should treat the public as adults and not believe that they should be protected from the facts," he said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

His remarks bluntly contradicted Lord Irvine of Lairg, who argued last week that there was no public interest in

reporting the extra-marital difficulties of the Foreign Secretary. He said that under future press curbs such stories would be suppressed.

Mr Cook, who was infuriated by the intervention, conceded that the coverage of the break-up of his marriage and the dismissal of his diary secretary to try to make way for Ms Regan had been painful.

"It has been a tough month — when you go through that kind of pressure, you learn something about yourself. I think as a result I am perhaps stronger, maybe more humble, perhaps better able to do my job," he said. "It is a job I

like doing, it's a job I believe I do well. Indeed over the last month, nobody has criticised me for the way I do my job."

The blunt remarks by Mr Cook have further isolated the Lord Chancellor. Downing Street and senior Labour Party figures condemned his call for a mechanism for "prior restraint" which would enable people to go to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) to ask it to stop stories being published, which were an apparent breach of their privacy.

Asked if he would have expected the PCC to have ordered the *News of the World* not to print the story of the Foreign Secretary and his mistress, the Lord Chancellor replied: "I would hope that would be the view that the PCC would form in a case like that, yes." He added: "What public interest is there in disclosing that?"

The Lord Chancellor's intervention reignited the controversy over Mr Cook just when the Labour Party leadership thought it had drawn a line also under the controversy. It also irritated Tony Blair, who is a close friend of Lord Irvine, as he arrived in Washington for a meeting with President Clinton.

But Mr Cook said that he agreed with the Prime Minister that there should be no



Robin Cook yesterday, humbler for his recent experiences at the hands of the press



"We'll skip the bit about if anyone knows why you shouldn't be wed"

objection to the couple ending their marriage with a speedy divorce. On Saturday night Mr Cook, with Ms Regan by his side, held a 25th birthday party for his eldest son, at his grace and favour residence at Chevening in Surrey.

Mr Cook said yesterday: "I agree with Tony Blair that there should be no gagging orders on the press." Mr Cook said yesterday: "I hope that the press would now leave high and Ms Regan alone. He said: "We

hope to be married in a few months. I hope in the next few months to be married — for the two people most concerned I hope it will be a happy ending."

Margaret Cook, his wife of 27 years, has raised no

objection to the couple ending their marriage with a speedy divorce. On Saturday night Mr Cook, with Ms Regan by his side, held a 25th birthday party for his eldest son, at his grace and favour residence at Chevening in Surrey.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Smith proposes tax breaks for arts donors

American-style tax-break donations for art institutions in place of government subsidies are being studied by ministers in a move to end the crisis at the Royal Opera House. The idea is being championed by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to try to end the financial uncertainty surrounding the Opera House, which was within days of running out of money at the end of last year.

Mr Smith has discussed the plan, based on the American system of financial gifts which attract tax relief for the donor, with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. The Treasury is examining the whole system of charitable donations and Mr Brown is considering the Smith proposal as part of the overall review. There is speculation that there might be a reference to the plan in the next Budget.

A similar scheme in the United States has generated hundreds of billions of dollars for museums and theatres. British ministers are impressed by the way charitable donations have sustained institutions such as the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

### Yard invites tenders

Scotland Yard is asking industry to build and run three police stations and its firearms school in a £64 million deal to save cash for essential policing, including officers on the beat. Advertisements will appear this week in business journals. The plan has been drawn up under the Government's private-finance initiative and the Yard's proposals will be the largest single deal yet staged by any police force.

### Body found in BA jet

The body of a stowaway was found in the undercarriage compartment of a British Airways Boeing 767 at Gatwick yesterday, hours after it arrived from Baku, Azerbaijan. Police and airline officials immediately launched an investigation. A BA spokeswoman said the man was exposed to temperatures of 58F (50C) at altitudes above 25,000ft during the five and a half hour flight. He was found by engineers carrying out routine maintenance.

### Murder suspect photofit

The photofit face of a man suspected of murdering the British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson will soon be seen across France. Thousands of copies will be displayed in police stations, petrol stations and post offices. The poster campaign is likely to get under way before the end of this month, a French police source said. Caroline, 13, from Cornwall, was murdered while on a school trip to Brittany in July 1996.

### Blunkett's gospel lesson

Education Secretary David Blunkett stepped into the pulpit yesterday to speak of the value of education and the family in society. Mr Blunkett, preaching at York Minster, said teaching was the "essence of the Gospel" and essential in providing a foundation for life and in nurturing compassion and care. He paid tribute to the work of church schools and said he wanted to see their success repeated in every British school.

### £11bn air pollution cost

Air pollution caused by traffic kills as many people as die in road accidents and costs £11 billion a year, according to a British Lung Foundation report today. It says the cost of road transport — including pollution, congestion, accidents, road damage and global warming — is almost £50 billion annually. Far from paying their way, road users contribute only a third of this amount in taxes, says the author, David Pearce, of the Centre for Social and Economic Research.

### New pill for asthma

An anti-asthma pill launched in Britain yesterday is the first completely new treatment for the condition in more than 20 years. Montelukast works by blocking the action of a substance which helps to trigger inflammation in the lungs, the underlying cause of asthma. Studies have shown it is effective when used in addition to traditional inhalers, reducing the frequency of attacks: in trials, 48 per cent of patients had fewer asthma attacks.

# Attorney-General considers plan for local Crown prosecutors

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Attorney-General has signalled a radical shake-up of the Crown Prosecution Service, replacing its bureaucratic, top-heavy organisation with a localised system headed by powerful chief crown prosecutors.

John Morris, QC, in an interview with *The Times*, hinted that a report on the service by the former Court of Appeal judge, Sir Iain Glidewell will propose a network of some 30 regional

crown prosecutors to whom most of the current powers held by headquarters staff will be devolved.

At present the 13 regional offices are run as outposts of CPS headquarters, rather than as independent prosecution departments with their own substantial powers of decision-making. The report, due next month, is expected to recommend a localised criminal justice system with which both the staff in the service

and the local community can identify.

Much of the present bureaucracy, which has deluged the 2,000 lawyers with paper work, will be removed, putting an end to the present system in which — in Mr Morris's words — "lawyers have become managers and managers trying to do things best left to the lawyers". He said that the CPS, headed by Dame Barbara Mills, had moved away from its original concept when set up 10 years ago under Sir Leon Britan, then Home Secretary.

From going around the country he had gleaned the same impression, that it was "overweight, centralised, bureaucratic... and with not enough resources being used to ensure that lawyers, as opposed to the bureaucratic part of the machinery, was being used to best advantage". A second concern, he added, was that "decision-making should be as localised as possible".

Mr Morris said he could not

# Neill proposes donations limit

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A FAR tougher regime of party political funding was proposed last night by Lord Neill, QC, the new public standards watchdog.

Lord Neill proposed that the identity of any donors over £1,000 should be disclosed rather than the £5,000 which was proposed by the Government and is the current voluntary code of practice at Westminster.

Lord Neill revealed his thinking in a BBC interview last night in a move which appeared to pre-empt the official investigation into political funding by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, which has yet to take evidence.

He also revealed his opposition to blind trusts which funded the office of Tony Blair and John Prescott when they were in opposition. His remarks will cause embarrassment to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, who still receives financial assistance from a blind trust.

A new constitutional rule for

an electoral commissioner to police new rules on party political funding was also outlined by Lord Neill.

As he left for Germany and Sweden last night to study the state funding of parties, Lord Neill insisted that he did not wish to be "hidebound" by the Government's own position on the future of party political funding.

In an interview for BBC's *In Committee*, Lord Neill also set out the case for a new electoral commissioner to keep close checks on parties and candidates at elections. His conviction was explicit: "It's useless putting anything in place that's not properly funded. But if you believe that the limits and the playing field is important, then you have to put your money there to make sure that it operates and isn't a hollow farce."

Lord Neill suggested an electoral commissioner whose job would be to keep an eye on that elections are fought according to the statutory rules and properly.

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dangerous thing. In this age of spin doctors and manipulators of media, Mr Powell will be remembered for his integrity and as a man who had the courage of his convictions.

Mr Powell, who remained a Tory all his life, never returned to the political mainstream after his infamous speech to Birmingham Tories. He was ultimately driven into the political wilderness when he quit the Conservative Party in 1974 because, he claimed, Edward Heath had betrayed the country over Britain's entry into the Common Market. He effectively endorsed Labour at the February, 1974, general election. He joined the Ulster Unionists and returned as the MP for South Down in October 1974.

John Enoch Powell was born on June 6, 1912. He claimed he entered the world in a railway cutting during a thunderstorm. He was educated at King's Norton and King Edward's School before going to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he won every award available. At the age of 26 he was professor of Greek at the University of Sydney before returning to

Britain. He was elected elected for Wolverhampton South-West in 1950 — a constituency he represented for 24 years. He served as an Ulster Unionist MP for 13 years.

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# Claim that Dodi Fayed fathered child 'a cruel lie'

A WOMAN'S claim that she had an illegitimate child by Dodi Fayed a year before he died, Princess of Wales, was a "cruel and wicked lie", his family said yesterday.

Diane Holliday, 36, a hotel consultant from Little Sleaford, Suffolk, claims she gave birth to Maria Hannah Holliday in Williamsburg, Virginia, in November 1996. She said she gave up the girl for adoption three days later.

Mohammed Al Fayed, Dodi's father and the owner of Harrods, met Ms Holliday in October last year, gave her £5,000 and investigated her claims. His spokesman said that he now believed her story to be untrue and had complained to the police. A spokesman for Scotland Yard confirmed that an inquiry into allegations of financial deception has been launched.

Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, said the

**Harrods owner complained to police after giving mother £5,000, reports Emma Wilkins**

claims — which appeared in a Sunday newspaper — were very distressing. "This is a cruel and wicked lie. Mohammed has lost his son. He would have loved to have believed this story. He would have been delighted if Dodi had had a child, it would have been his first grandchild."

Mr Cole said Ms Holliday's claims first came to light a few months after Dodi Fayed's death in Paris last August. She had

arrived at Brookwood Cemetery, where Mr Fayed was buried, with flowers and a letter that she had handed to security guards. In it, she had claimed to be the mother of his illegitimate child.

He said Mr Al Fayed had hired David E. Kendall, an American lawyer who has acted for Hillary Clinton, to examine Ms Holliday's claims. According to an affidavit sworn by Mr Kendall last month, Ms Holliday is an unreliable witness, she never said she knew Dodi Fayed and told the adoptive parents that the child's father was "another individual".

The affidavit continued: "The adoptive parents said they had a low estimation of Diane Linda Holliday's veracity because she has changed her stories about so many things so frequently."

"At no time did she ever assert to them that Mr Dodi Fayed was the father of the child. After the death of Mr Fayed and the Princess, Diane Linda Holliday stated only that she "knew the [Fayed] family". She never suggested to the adoptive parents that Dodi Fayed was the father or that she even knew Dodi Fayed."

Mr Cole denied that DNA tests had been carried out on the child. He said that while Ms Holliday, who has two teenage children, claimed to have met Mr Fayed at his Mayfair and Paris homes, there was no record of any meetings.

Douglas Alexiou, Ms Holliday's solicitor, said he had seen a birth certificate on which Mr Fayed was named as the father. The certificate itself was not evidence but there were "other reasons" why he believed Ms Holliday. "It is correct that the late Dodi Fayed is the father. I am satisfied on my instructions."

The claims came as a surprise to Ms Holliday's family in Suffolk. Julie Holliday, her sister-in-law, said: "I have never heard of her knowing Dodi Fayed or having a child in America and giving it up for adoption. I have seen her quite recently, and she never mentioned anything like this."

# Princess 'could have been saved'

Continued from page 1 lung machine early enough, you can save them. But time is of the essence."

Dr Ochsner criticises Dr Maillier's reasoning: "You couldn't try to repair that injury on the scene, you'd have to be in the hospital." External chest massage, which the Princess received, would probably be the worst thing. "Once you start beating on the chest, you increase pressure in all the chambers at one time. If anything, that would hurt her."

As for the "go slow" driving techniques, Dr Ochsner's response is described as "bristling". He said: "Shocks and bumps? You know, if you're trying to save a life, you have to get them to the operating room quickly."

"I can't second-guess anybody. What I'm saying is if it was a small rent, a patient would have plenty of time. But if it's big enough where it's

slowly bleeding, as hers was, there had to be some resistance of flow, with a clot or something. Otherwise she would have bled out."

"What I'm saying is this: given that she was still alive after nearly two hours, if they'd have gotten her there in an hour, they might have saved her."

Dr Ochsner's view is backed up by Dr David Wasserman, a surgeon at some of America's busiest hospitals. He said: "If they had gotten her to the operating room sooner, she would have had a far greater chance. You could never diagnose that kind of injury in the field, never. In the US, there'd be hell to pay in a case like this — lawsuits, internal investigations. Spending all that time on on-site treatment was absolutely the wrong approach for this patient."

Objects of desire, page 5  
Anatomy of death, page 17



Garlanded with bouquets, the Prince is welcomed to Kathmandu by women who have found sanctuary from the vice trade

# Prince meets victims of vice

THE Prince of Wales visited a rehabilitation centre for Nepali girls rescued from brothels yesterday, in the hope that the publicity would help raise funds for the project trying to tackle the results of Asia's vice trade. Residents of the home in Kathmandu include HIV sufferers, rape victims and about 130 unwanted children.

The Prince, Colonel in Chief of the Royal Gurkha Rifles, praised the Gurkhas during his speech at a dinner hosted by a Nepali crown prince, Dipendra. He said: "I have nothing but the greatest admiration for the dedication and bravery which they have shown in playing their part in the British Army."

ly served with the British Army. Gurkhas of Mongolian origin come from the hills of Nepal and have been serving in the British Army for the past 132 years.



The Prince meets Gurkha Bhan Bhagta VC, aged 76

# £2,900 price of a bad hair day

BY EMMA WILKINS

A HOTEL receptionist who claims she was left looking like a grey-haired grandmother after a visit to the hairdresser has received £2,900 compensation from a salon.

Madeleine McDonald, 38, from Wimborne, Dorset, accepted the out-of-court settlement from her local Sheelips salon. The payment was made without prejudice or admission of liability.

Mrs McDonald is one of about 3,000 people a year who experience problems at hairdressers in Britain — the only country in Europe where stylists are not required to have qualifications.

Mrs McDonald's bad hair day began 12 months ago when she visited Sheelips for some highlights in her brown hair. She was put under a dryer after a bleaching agent was applied.

"They didn't even check me and, when I finally came out, I thought my head was on fire. It was so hot," Mrs McDonald said. "When the hairdresser washed off the bleach, I looked about 70 years old. I was so shocked, but didn't say anything. The stylist had to put on blue shampoo because it had been over-processed, but as



McDonald: left looking "like a grandmother"

she was drying it hair was falling on to my lap."

Two days afterwards, Mrs McDonald returned to the salon, where toner was put on her hair to bring it back to its original colour. "They took two hours to dry it because it was so brittle and, when I got home, my husband looked at the top and found hair only about a quarter of an inch long. It was awful," she said.

Maria Hughes, owner of Sheelips, said the hairdresser was an experienced stylist who had since started her own business. "I have been in business for seven years and this is the first time anything like this has happened."

# Minister warns of witches in Highlands

BY GILMAN HARRIS

A CHURCH of Scotland minister has shocked his congregation with a warning that a "witches' coven" is practising Satanic rites in the Highlands.

The Rev John Buchan, of Ness Bank Church in Inverness, alleged that professional people, including a doctor and a lawyer, were involved in occult activities in and around the town. He told 250 parishioners that such practices were against the teaching of the Bible and urged them to steer clear of the coven.

Afterwards Mr Buchan said that he raised the subject in his sermon because he feared the "creeping influence of devil worship in the area. I have absolutely no reason to doubt the truth about what I was told about the coven operating. I am sure that my informant was being quite honest with me."

"I had to balance the risk of unnecessarily giving publicity to these people who dabble in evil spirits against my desire to do my best to ensure that other local people were not enticed into that kind of mumbo-jumbo," he said.

# Bournemouth turns blue without the rinse

BY LIN JENKINS

THE promise of sex at the seaside is being used to sell Bournemouth to a new generation of holidaymakers who may have overlooked the resort in the mistaken view that its appeal peaked in a more stately era.

Dismissing the cliché of its "bathchair and blue-rinse image", tourist officials are promoting the town as the party capital of the South Coast, and even boasting of its dubious accolade as winner of the Duxet award for Britain's most popular beach for open-air sex. This year it will play

host to a women's topless darts competition. A leaflet points out that the town has 10,000 more women than men, and asks: "What an incentive to visit, eh boys?"

However, the tone of the campaign has upset some among the more mature residents. Mark Sherman, director of Help and Care, a local charity group for the elderly, said: "Talking about the blue-rinse image helps to reinforce negative images of older people. Bournemouth should be looking to find ways to integrate the young and the old. Not all older people in Bournemouth have bath-

chairs. I wonder if anyone from the council is able to spot a single one these days."

Steven Gossall, the director of leisure and tourism, concedes that they have distorted the true picture as a means of getting the message across, but he said: "We've had enough of the music-hall jokes. We think our promotional campaign creates a younger image without being overaggressive and attracting large losses."

"To some extent we've exaggerated Bournemouth's appeal to young people, in order to counter traditional perceptions of the town."

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# A lifetime punctuated by words of controversy and wit

"Those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad. We must be mad, literally mad, as a nation to be permitting the annual inflow of some 50,000 dependants, who are for the most part the material of the future growth of the immigrant-descended population. It is like watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre. As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman, I seem to see the Tiber foaming with much blood."  
Birmingham, April 1968

"A little nonsense now and then is not a bad thing. Where would we politicians be if we were not allowed to talk it sometimes?"  
1964

"Helping industry" is the

elephant pit of socialism, a deep hole with sharp spikes at the bottom, covered over with twigs and fresh grass."  
September 1969

"I was born a Tory, am a Tory and shall die a Tory. I never yet heard that it was any part of the faith of a Tory to take the institutions and liberties, the laws and customs which this country has evolved over centuries and merge them with those of eight other nations into a new-made artificial state, and what is more to do so without the willing approbation and consent of the nation."  
February 1974

"No one is forced to be a politician. It can only compare with fox-hunting and writing poetry. These are two things



How *The Times* saw dockers' support for Enoch Powell's comments in April 1968

that men do for sheer enjoyment, too."  
1975

"If there is a Marx Brothers film on in some suburban cinema, we play truant, give

up an afternoon and go and see it."  
On how he and his wife enjoyed themselves  
Article, 1975

"There is a mania in legislation in detecting discrimina-

tion. But all life is about discrimination."  
Article, 1975

"Office before honour was the password of Conservative Government."

Article in 1977 referring to the 1970-74 Tory Administration

"The amateur in politics is the person who is always sure he knows the result of the next general election."  
February 1981

"I do not keep a diary. Never have. To write a diary every day is like returning to one's own vomit."  
Article, 1977

"To me the nation is the ultimate political reality. There is no political reality beyond it. But what it is cannot be determined scientifically, you cannot pick it up, you cannot measure it."  
*The Listener*, May 1981

"A populist politician is a politician who says things

because he believes them to be popular. At least, that is my understanding of the term. I have never been that. My worst enemies couldn't say that."  
May 1981

"There is one thing you can be sure of with the Conservative Party: before anything else, they have a grand sense for where the votes are."  
May 1981

"For a politician to complain about the press is like a ship's captain complaining about the sea."  
*Guardian* article, 1984

"I should like to have been killed in the war."  
When asked in a 1986 radio interview how he would like to be remembered

"Above any other position of eminence, that of Prime Minister is filled by fluke."  
March 1987

"To pretend that you cannot exchange goods and services freely with a Frenchman or an Italian unless there is an identical standard of bathing beaches or tap water in the different countries is not logic. It is naked aggression."  
Article, May 1990

"To be and to remain a member of the House of Commons was the overriding and undiscussable motivation of my life as a politician."  
Article, 1990

"A politician crystallises what most people mean, even if they don't know it."  
Undated

## Unrequited love drew poetry from Powell

By ALAN HAMILTON AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ENOCH POWELL was a double-glazed sort of man: any fires of base human passion that burned within him were kept well insulated from his fiery, intellectual exterior wall. But once, a long time ago, Powell opened the window.

He was in his late thirties, demobbed from distinguished war service and newly selected as Tory candidate for Wolverhampton. His educational life had been one of male preserve and classical discipline. He had never dated a woman.

And then he fell in love. It was in 1948. He had learnt to hunt, because he thought it was the sort of thing a working-class boy made good should do. She was Barbara Kennedy, a member of the Albrighton hunt social committee in Shropshire, a jolly, bubbly gal.

On their first date he took her by bus to the music hall in Wolverhampton. She told him that if he wanted to take her out again, he had better get a car. But her steady beau, to whom material possessions were never the highest priority, chose to write her poetry instead.

We know this from a rare

moment of confessional. Forty-seven years after the event, Powell recalled his first love in a television interview conducted by Michael Cockerell. He wept at the memory.

The experience, he recalled, was "intense and mysterious", and it propelled him back to the creative writing he had first learnt at the feet of A.E. Housman at Cambridge.

"Like a powerful hallucinatory drug, it unsealed again the necessity and capability to write poetry. Dawn after dawn, the stuff rose in my throat and would have choked me had I not got it down and

licked it into shape." Here is a snatch of the stuff:

"You ceased. The wind that through the sword  
With steady-breathing passion swept,  
From flower and grass and heather bent  
'Amen' to that strange sacrament;  
And silent, as it seemed, we wept."

Sadly, the passion was something of a one-way traffic. The object of his affections, known only as B until tracked down to Yorkshire by inquisitive reporters, recalled years later: "John [his first name]

was very nice, very intelligent, but rather quiet, very reserved and desperately shy. He was very handsome with piercing, penetrating eyes. He was fascinating because I didn't know what was going on in his brain half the time."

"I suppose at one time we were actually dating. But it was more emotional than physical. He wasn't the sort to crawl all over you."

Barbara announced her engagement to a Shropshire businessman. Powell arrived at the Kennedy family house and protested that she had agreed to marry him. "I don't ever recall him proposing," she said 47 years later. "But I didn't understand a word he was saying; he was so erudite." But she had never intended to marry him anyway; he was too much of an intellectual.

Powell did not have to wait too long to find a love that was requited; in 1952 he married his political secretary, Pamela Wilson. And on their every anniversary, this unlikely of romantics wrote her a poem.

Michael Portillo, page 20  
Leading article, page 21  
Obituary, page 23



Pamela Powell, who had been her husband's political secretary, and Barbara Kennedy, the MP's first love



Barbara Kennedy, the MP's first love



Enoch Powell: he never forecast rivers of blood

## Lines of Virgil that stumped party faithful

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Enoch Powell rose to speak on a quiet Saturday afternoon on April 20, 1968, to 85 Tory activists in Birmingham, no one expected anything momentous.

The engagement with the party faithful, a routine event undertaken by MPs each weekend, was the unlikely setting for the "rivers of blood" speech which altered the course of domestic politics.

It ended the frontbench career of one of Britain's most charismatic politicians and lit the slow-burning fuse which led to his departure from Edward Heath's Conservative Party over the Common Market.

Having already irritated Heath with the tone of a speech on immigration in Walsall two months earlier, Powell went much further on that Saturday afternoon.

There had been no prior warning. Only days before, he had made no mention of his thoughts at a Shadow Cabinet meeting which discussed the Government's Race Relations Bill.

In the speech, he called for an immediate reduction in "negligible proportions" of the immigrant inflow and an

"urgent" encouragement of re-emigration. Contrary to popular mythology, he never predicted that rivers would flow with blood if immigration continued unchecked.

Mustering his considerable classical learning as a former professor of Greek, he quoted the doom-laden prophecies of a mythical female soothsayer in Book VI of Virgil's *Aeneid*, who had interpreted a vision of a bloodied River Tiber as an omen of approaching misfortune.

Few, if any, of his audience knew what he was talking about, but the effect was electric. Hundreds of London dockers stopped work and marched on Westminster to chant their support for "good old Enoch". Labour MPs were jeered. The Home Office suspended an immigration officer at Heathrow for sending a letter of support to Powell.

The populist undercurrent the speech unleashed may have explained why it took slightly more than 24 hours for Heath to announce publicly that Powell had been sacked. Two Shadow Cabinet members, Quintin Hogg and Edward Boyle, would have resigned if he had not gone.

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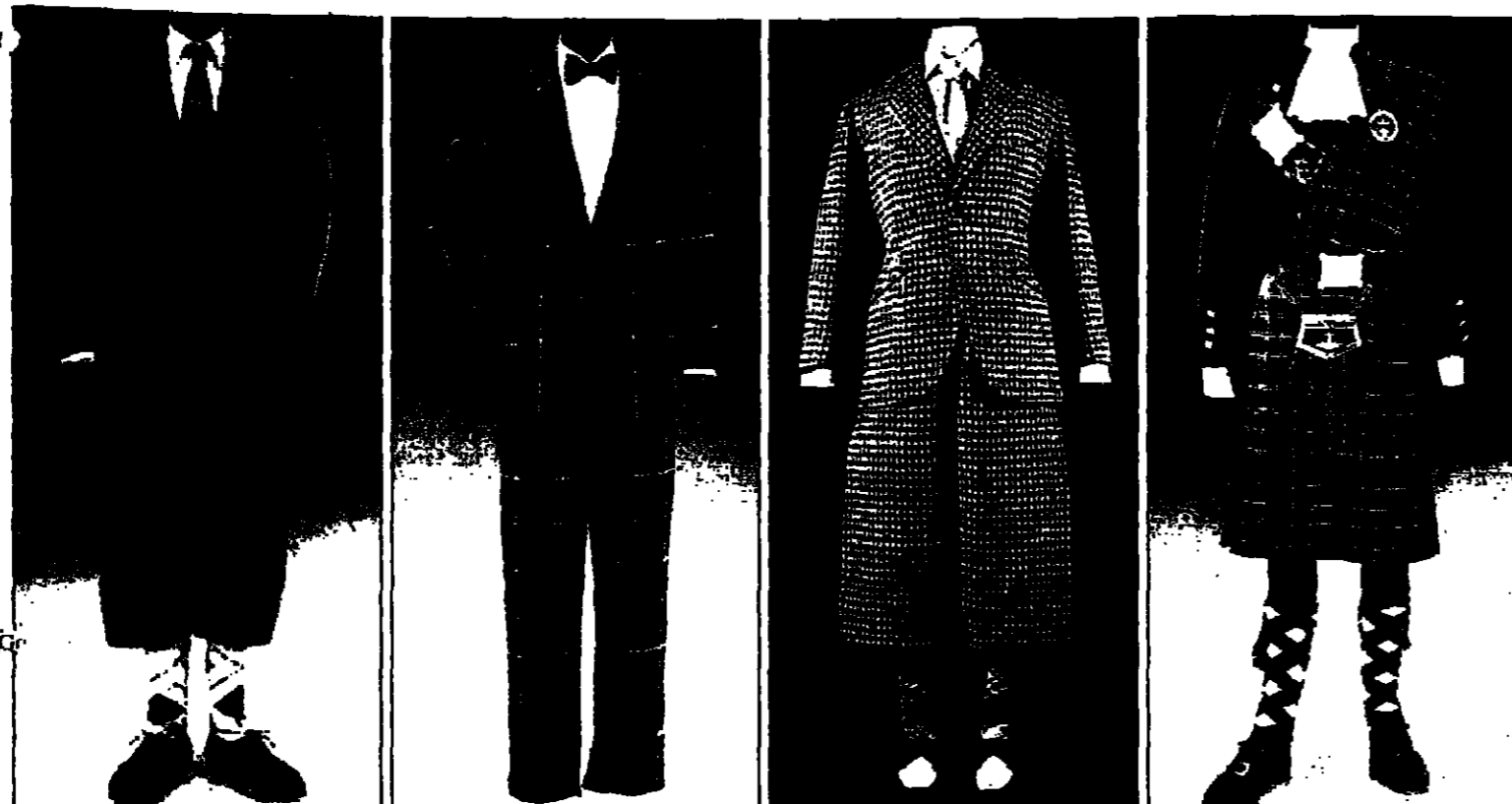
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From the Duke's wardrobe: Harris tweed golfing suit, tartan suit made for George V in 1897, tweed jacket with plus fours, and Highland dress

# For sale: objects of desire from the house of Windsor

From Georgian silver to mink garters, Alan Hamilton previews the largest royal auction

THEY were arguably the most stylish couple of the century and were avid hoarders of everything they ever owned — especially their clothes. When the personal possessions of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor go under the hammer in New York later this month, it will take nine days to dispose of 44,000 items in the largest auction of royal memorabilia.

For a man who constantly pleaded poverty, the Duke had a remarkably extensive wardrobe, including 15 evening suits, 55 lounge suits and a kilt for every day of the week. As an arbiter of fashion, he popularised Fair Isle sweaters, plus fours, tweed caps and the Windsor knot, which he considered the most elegant finish to a necktie.

The Duchess once told a friend: "I'm nothing to look at, so all I can do is dress better than anyone else." She had a collection of shoes to rival that of Imelda Marcos, in quality if not in number, and every item of her silk underwear was

monogrammed. Deprived of the title Royal Highness by George VI, Wallis did everything in her power to convince herself and the world that she was a Somebody.

Stopping about was not a thing that the Windsors did. Even when relaxing at weekends at their country retreat outside Paris, the Duchess

insisted on wearing kilts by Dior. Both were fastidious to the point of obsession, the Duke wearing his wardrobe in strict rotation to prevent any item wearing out before another.

The result is that not only their wardrobes, but virtually every last possession of their lives together, survived in

mint condition in their home in the Bois de Boulogne after the death of the Duke in 1972 and that of the Duchess in 1986. Now the collection is to be broken up. Sotheby's estimates its worth at about £5 million; others expect the auction to realise nearer £40 million.

Behind the sale is Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. The Duchess left her estate to the Institut Pasteur in Paris for medical research, but Mr Al Fayed bought the house contents from the research centre for £3 million.

Mr Al Fayed promised at the time to keep the collection together, but has decided to sell it and donate the proceeds to the charity he set up in memory of his son Dodi, who died with Diana, Princess of Wales, in the Paris car crash last year.

Mr Al Fayed, who owns the Windsors' house and has run it as a discreet museum to their lives, planned to auction the contents last September in New York, where the memory

of the Windsors is rather more rose-tinted than it is in Britain. The fact that he postponed the sale in tribute to the deaths of the Princess and his son will serve only to excite the bidding.

There is far more in the sale than clothes. The lavish two-volume catalogue runs to more than 1,000 pages, and encompasses house contents from the sublime, through the historical, to the majestically trivial. They record a royal life from high birth, through distinguished service in the First World War, by way of brief kingship and abdication, to a long life of exile as the fulcrum of a smart set of self-regarding nobodies.

Here are heirlooms handed down from his father, George V, including a set of silver dishes bearing the cypher of George III. Here is the Garter banner of his grandfather Edward VII, and the silver ashtrays taken from the royal yacht of his great-grandmother, Victoria. But here,



Cecil Beaton's gouache *Wallis Simpson Serving Cocktails, 1936*, estimated to fetch £4,000. A Munnings portrait of the Duke is the dearest item, estimated at £550,000

too, are more personal items: a certificate signed by Winston Churchill, as Minister of War, in 1919, confirming that he had been mentioned in dispatches; a doll given by his mother, Queen Mary, when he was a child and from which he was inseparable; the desk on which he signed his instrument of abdication; and a tiny slice of wedding cake in a ribboned box from his union to the woman for whom he renounced the throne.

Wallis, poor Baltimore girl, could never compete with all that. Her effects include a christening mug, but most of her possessions were given to her by the man who had assiduously courted her, from

hairbrushes to Louis Vuitton trunks.

Most of the Duchess's spectacular jewellery collection was sold at auction in Geneva a decade ago, although a selection remains in the coming sale. Of more appeal to historians is an archive of 10,000 family snapshots, many never seen before, and including pictures of most of the contemporary crowned heads of Europe.

The Windsors accumulated the best decorative art of the day and the sale includes carpets, crystal, furniture, porcelain and a collection of pictures from Degas to Warhol. Possibly the most important single lot in the sale is a

portrait by Sir Alfred Munnings of the then Prince of Wales on his horse Forest Witch, which the catalogue estimates at £550,000.

But you can never tell with the Windsors. Their life was so unreal, so extraordinary, so perceived as a romance more touching than anything dreamt up by Hollywood, that virtually nothing in the auction, beginning on February 19, is likely to go for a song. Someone will doubtless pay well over the £300 estimate for the Duchess's mink garters, if only because it's the devil's own job to find mink garters these days.

Princess's death, page 17



Duke and Duchess on the eve of their wedding in 1937

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# Ulster parties urged to put past behind them

## Clinton's support has strengthened the drive towards peace, reports Martin Fletcher

TONY BLAIR issued a new appeal for peace in Northern Ireland yesterday, after securing President Clinton's wholehearted support for his efforts to resolve that conflict.

"I say to the political parties in Northern Ireland today, 'Put the past behind you, leave the ancient enmities aside and embrace a future of peace,'" the Prime Minister begged in a speech to Labour's local government conference in Scarborough. "Do it for the future. Do it for the children. They deserve better."

Mr Blair was speaking shortly after returning from a three-day trip

to Washington, during which Mr Clinton offered to return to Northern Ireland to bolster the peace process and pledged to ostracise Sinn Féin if the IRA returned to violence. Mr Clinton is likely to pay his second visit to Belfast just before or after the May 15-17 world economic summit in Birmingham, provided the peace process remains on track.

Sinn Féin and John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party

welcomed the prospect yesterday, but Ulster Unionists were markedly less enthusiastic about the intervention at a critical moment of a man they consider pro-nationalist. The Government has set May as the deadline for the parties to agree a settlement.

"Quite clearly he's intending to come here trying to influence as well as interfere in our affairs," said Jim Rodgers, Belfast's Deputy Lord Mayor. "If President Clinton wants

to come and spend his holiday in Northern Ireland, I'm sure he will be very welcome," said David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist party leader.

Mr Clinton's previous visit in November 1995 brought tens of thousands of Roman Catholics and Protestants onto the streets of Belfast and Londonderry for what was, in effect, a massive peace demonstration. It is unclear whether he would return if the parties were still struggling to reach an agreement.

but, had they met the deadline, he could play a big role in securing support for a proposed new settlement in referendums to be held simultaneously in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

For now, an agreement remains a long way off. Unionists are fiercely resisting nationalist demands for a strong new north-south body with executive powers to promote cross-border co-operation. The two sides are far from agreeing what powers a

new Northern Ireland assembly should have. Sinn Féin has split with the SDLP — and left itself isolated at the talks — by refusing even to accept that there should be a new assembly.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is considering moving the Stormont talks to a secret venue for their final stages because she believes the media's presence discourages compromise.

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed it had sought advice from the South African Government on releasing terrorist prisoners.

# Shadow of gunmen drives the Irish to drink

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

IRISH people living in Britain are being driven to drink and mental illness and are dying prematurely because of the strain of living in a society that regards them with hostility and suspicion, psychiatrists have suggested.

The conflict in Northern Ireland and IRA terrorism, they say, has made it hard for people of Irish birth or origin to assert themselves in Britain with the same confidence that Irish emigrants to the United States have done.

Irish-born men living in Britain are nine times more likely to suffer from alcohol-related disorders than their English-born counterparts, and Irish women seven times more likely, according to the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

Irish men and women are 1.5 times more prone to commit suicide and at least 2.5 times more likely to be admitted to hospital suffering from depression or schizophrenia.

Patrick Bracken, an Irish consultant psychiatrist at Bradford University and one of the authors of the article, said: "The Irish are treated quite differently in America and have no hesitation in asserting their Irishness, unlike here. They are the only immigrants whose life expectancy worsens on coming to England. Even their British-born children die younger. Far from getting a better life, they are likely to suffer more mental illness, more health problems and die younger than any other ethnic group."

"We cannot be sure of the causes for this very high rate of mental and physical illness. But living in a country that has suffered enormous damage from IRA attacks must play on their minds. It makes them feel people will associate them with the guilty men and blame them."

Dr Bracken and his colleagues accuse health and social researchers of ignoring the "Irish dimension" in the debate over ethnicity. The Irish in Britain have suffered a form of racism akin to that experienced by the Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities, they suggest.

# MP denies offering explicit pictures

By GILLIAN HARRIS

TOMMY GRAHAM, the Labour MP being investigated for allegedly smearing a colleague who committed suicide last year, is facing accusations that he threatened to release sexually compromising photographs of a senior trade union official.

Mr Graham, MP for Renfrewshire West, is suspended from the party pending results of an internal investigation into allegations he smeared Gordon McMaster, the Paisley South MP. In his suicide note, Mr McMaster named Mr Graham as one of the people who conducted a whispering campaign.

Yesterday, Mr Graham denied claims made by two members of the Labour Scottish executive, Alan Wilson and Jim Stevens, that he offered them pictures of the unnamed figure at a party. He said: "There is not a shred of truth in the claims."

Mr Wilson, Mr Stevens and a third witness will present a written statement when the party's constitutional committee team arrives in Glasgow on Thursday. The investigation has cleared Mr Graham of any part in Mr McMaster's suicide, and has yet to find anything of substance to prove the allegations he smeared Mr McMaster.

# Clean up and open up, Blair tells town halls

## Council reform will be driven by rewards and penalties, reports Mark Henderson

THE Government is to adopt a carrot and stick approach to reforming local government. Successful councils will be rewarded with greater powers and financial flexibility while poor performers will be targeted by "hit squads" to improve services, Tony Blair announced yesterday.

Councils will be encouraged to adopt new structures to increase participation, accountability and competence in local democracy and to root out corrupt councillors. Each authority will have to set targets for increasing voter turnout and rendering decision-making more transparent, and draw up a code of conduct enforced by independent investigation.

Addressing the Labour local government conference in Scarborough, Mr Blair said that councils that modernised in line with these goals could expect greater freedom. "They will see their own status enhanced and improved. We will be giving councils that are doing well the right to do more."

Councils might win the right to ease council-tax capping and a supplementary business rate if they prove to the Government that they have modernised.

Failing councils will get no Government concessions and might face intervention to ensure that council taxpayers get value for money. "If au-

thorities cannot — or will not — take the load, we will have powers to intervene," Mr Blair said. "We want you to succeed, but we will be ready if you fail." Government teams like those used to take over local education authorities will become active in all spheres of local government.

The Prime Minister said that local election turnouts were too low, leadership often poor and unaccountable, and incompetence and corruption excessive. "I want to see new legitimacy in local government. The claims of local councils to speak and act for local people are far too often weakened by their poor base of popular support."

Postal or electronic voting, polling stations in supermarkets or shopping centres, and holding local elections at weekends could all help to raise turnout, he suggested. Citizens' juries, community

forums and annual council elections would increase participation and accountability. "Local people need new local ways to have their say."

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will today publish a consultation paper exploring the proposals set out by Mr Blair. Lord Hunt's Local Government (Experimental Arrangements) Bill, which has Government support, will from October allow directly-elected mayors and delegate powers currently held by committees to individual councillors.

Mr Blair added his voice to the Government's campaign against corruption in local government, announced by Mr Prescott on Friday. Tough procedures to fight corruption are to be included in a consultation paper later in the year. "Councillors and officials who are incompetent, or still worse corrupt, not only undermine their own claims of leadership, but tarnish the reputation of local government as a whole," Mr Blair said. "Council corruption is unacceptable. Not in any circumstances, not for any reason."

Councils will have to appoint independent investigators to look into allegations of malpractice and, issue swift and binding reports. "On corruption, it's one strike and you're out," he said.

Leading article, page 21



"On corruption, it's one strike and you're out": Tony Blair at Scarborough yesterday

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 1998

# 'Lost' city sites may ease threat to the green belt

DISUSED sites in cities could be used for four times as many homes as previously forecast, reducing demand for green-belt land, according to new evidence to be put to the Government.

Failure to identify the amount of city land available for housing was criticised yesterday as a major failure in the planning system, which was said to have underestimated "windfall" sites whose previous use had ended.

Planners originally estimated that 60,000 homes could be built on these sites in London between 1991 and 2016. Now evidence produced for the London Planning Advisory Committee by the planning consultancy Halcrow Fox shows that the number could be 235,000.

More land has become free as heavy industries have moved out of the capital, especially around Docklands. Recently developed sites include the Royal Ordnance site in Enfield Island, which yielded 1,360 residential units, the Stoke Newington filter-

**Planners have been accused of underestimating disused land for housing, reports Rachel Kelly**

building with 400, and County Hall, former home of the GLC.

The figures apply only to London, but the pattern is likely to be repeated in other big cities. The figures are in a report to be presented to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, next month.

Traditionally, windfall sites are not included in planning figures produced by borough councils because of the uncertainty about whether they will be available for building. John Lett, assistant chief planner for LPA, said: "The sheer scale of this windfall housing

over the past five years shows a major failure in the planning system. Planners have got to be more realistic about the number of homes likely to come forward.

"On the face of it, the picture is really quite optimistic. It certainly challenges the idea that around 50 per cent of housing must be built on greenfield sites." A further 54,000 new homes could be provided from converting surplus office blocks, Mr Lett said.

The suggestions defuse some of the concern caused by 1992 calculations that 4.4 million new homes would be needed by 2016, of which 630,000 would be required in the capital. A report earlier this month by the British Government Panel also suggested that these figures were exaggerated.

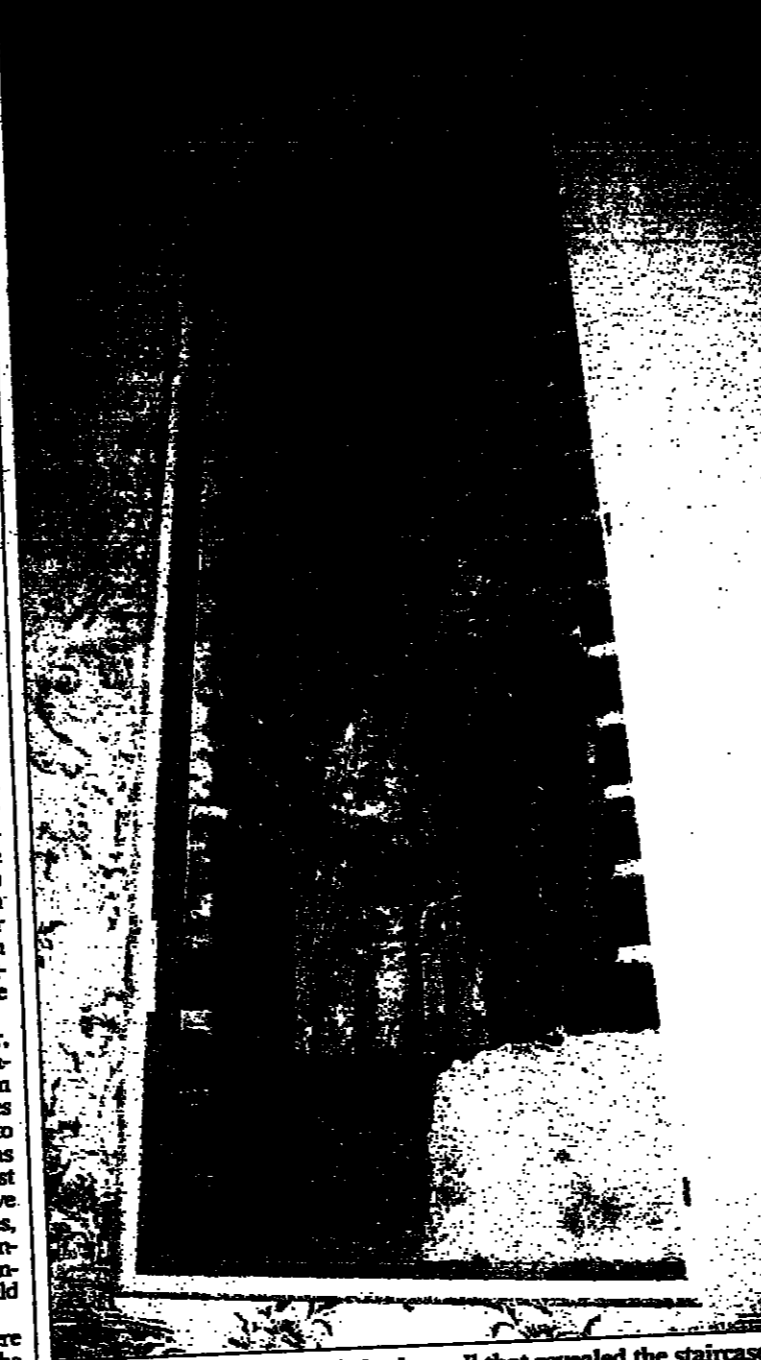
However, Roger Humber, of the House Builders' Federation, said that more homes in London or other large cities would not make a difference to the housing needs of areas such as Somerset and West Sussex. "These areas have their own localised economies, and the authorities are continually reporting that they cannot find enough brownfield sites."

Planning predictions were made in the recession and the property market had subsequently boomed, he said. "The booming market meant more people were looking to live in London. It is hardly surprising that the predictions were wrong. Planning authorities have always had a struggle to get to terms with how the market works."

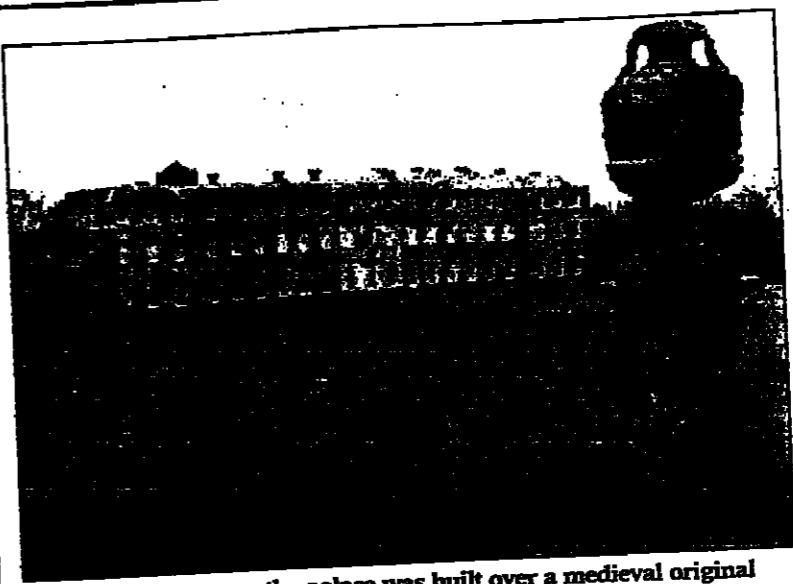
A spokesman for the Department of Environment said: "We have always said we would like to see as much development on brownfield sites as possible. Obviously this is very encouraging, and it's a useful contribution to the debate in London."

The committee is an advisory strategic planning body incorporating members from the 33 London boroughs. It was set up in 1986 with the statutory responsibility of advising the London government office on matters relating to development, transport and the environment in Greater London.

Separately, the committee is carrying out market research with the firm Hamblins to find out residential preferences. Mr Lett said: "It is too early to say what this survey will find, but I imagine that it is likely to find that many of those looking for new homes - 80 per cent single-person households - will be quite happy to live in towns."



Hidden secret: the hole in the wall that revealed the staircase



Petworth House: the palace was built over a medieval original

# Hole in wall allows a glimpse of history

By DALYA ALSBERG, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BUILDERS have discovered a medieval spiral staircase and carved window that had been hidden for centuries behind a wall at Petworth House, the 17th-century palace that inspired some of Turner's greatest paintings and boasts Capability Brown's masterpiece of landscaping.

There was documentary evidence to show that the palace in West Sussex was placed over a prominent medieval mansion owned by the powerful Percys, but only the chapel and wine cellar were thought to have survived from the original.

The builders made the new discoveries by chance during repairs to the area around the chapel. They had turned their attention to a large crack in a wall. Removing the wood paneling that covered the surface, they noticed debris fall into a 5ft deep void. Peering through the gap, they could make out the treads of the spiral staircase. Eventually, they detected

stone tracery from a mullioned window. It is believed that the staircase travels up through the four levels of the house. Typical of its 14th or 15th-century origins is its clockwise rotation, which made it more difficult for an attacker armed with a sword in his right hand to ascend, but easier to defend with a sword on the way down.

The Duke of Somerset, known as the Proud Duke, transformed the house during the 1690s after marrying into the Percy family. He used up his wife's fortune. The property is now owned by the National Trust. Archaeologists cannot climb the stairs yet, as the hole is not large enough to climb through and they would not want to demolish the 17th-century structure. Instead, they will wait until more wall work needs to be done. The hole will be left behind a sliding panel for special tours. Mark Taylor, senior archaeologist for West Sussex County Council, said: "It's fascinating."

# Families resist homeless plan

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

SERVICE families are resisting moves by the Ministry of Defence to allow homeless families to move into empty homes on their estates.

Sir Richard Mottram, the MoD Permanent Secretary, who has told the Commons Public Accounts Committee of their concerns, wants to make the best possible use of some 13,500 empty service homes. When service personnel are given a posting such as Bosnia, married women and children are left alone on the estate and so, Sir Richard told MPs, "there are concerns about the people who we bring in to these neighbourhoods".

Many empty properties are now controlled by Arminghams Homes, which paid more than £1.6 billion for 57,000

married quarters. The MoD leases back the properties. A decision to move homeless families into MoD-rented homes would have to be approved by the company.

A campaign group for the homeless, the Empty Homes Agency, is to raise the issue of the vacant homes with Nick Raynsford, the Construction Minister, this week.

The MoD has canvassed local authorities and housing associations about allowing homeless families to take six-month lets on up to 400 homes still in the MoD's ownership. Officials have promised that no civilian family will move in next door to a service family.

The MoD has commissioned a report on the matter from Ian Cole, of Sheffield-Hallam University. He has found that families fear that their estates will be filled with criminals and drug addicts, but believes that community activities could resolve this.

Anthony Fletcher, of the Empty Homes Agency, said: "It is a scandal that some thousands of service married quarters are kept empty at taxpayers' expense because of attitudes by the army authorities about people in need of a home."

Separately, the committee is carrying out market research with the firm Hamblins to find out residential preferences. Mr Lett said: "It is too early to say what this survey will find, but I imagine that it is likely to find that many of those looking for new homes - 80 per cent single-person households - will be quite happy to live in towns."

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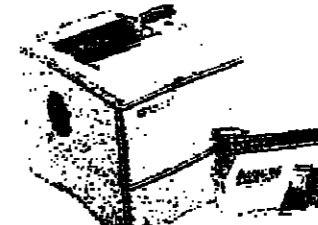
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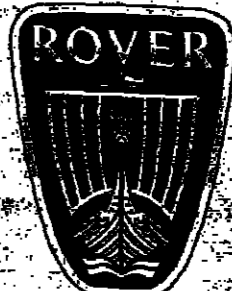




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# Detectives help boys without a clue

### Studying the cases of Holmes and Marlowe improves literacy for all, reports David Charter

SHERLOCK HOLMES and Philip Marlowe are helping to solve the mystery of why boys perform so badly in English classes compared with girls. The case of the clueless pupils now appears to have been cracked, with the discovery that detective fiction can ignite the boys' interest and improve their literacy. The theory was tested among teenagers in comprehensive schools where boys were achieving considerably lower grades than girls.

Studying short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Raymond Chandler was found to encourage boys and girls alike to produce better creative writing, in research for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. A study says that work by boys in particular was "far better constructed... the characters were more fully realised and the descriptive writing was far more precise" after sharing the experiences of Marlowe, Holmes and Dr Watson.

The importance of fact and plot are thought to be the key to unlock the boys' interest. The findings are included in *Can Do Better*, published by the authority tomorrow, to be sent to all schools.

The study draws together strategies to improve boys' poor performance at English when compared with girls. Figures released by the Department for Education and Employment last week showed that 5 per cent more girls than boys reached re-

quired national curriculum levels in English tests for pupils at 7, 11 and 14. At GCSE, girls consistently out-perform boys.

For the authority's report, short stories by Chandler and Conan Doyle were studied by teenagers in comprehensive school classes where boys were achieving far lower grades than the girls. In particular, they analysed Chandler's use of short sentences, ironical humour and narrative techniques such as flashback.

When asked to write their own short stories afterwards, the pupils came up with work that is said to have delighted their teachers. The reports say: "The girls' writing was more adventurous than before and the boys wrote stories that were more realistic. The boys' stories met the GCSE criteria more fully than before and generally matched the quality of the girls' writing."

Experts believe that detective fiction bridges the gulf between young boys' well-documented preference for non-fiction, and girls' interest in the development of character and relationships. An understanding of these "mainline" aspects of literature brings higher marks in GCSE and A-level English examinations.

Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Brunel University, said that the boys were attracted to crime stories by the well-



### GOOD ENGLISH? IT'S ELEMENTARY

"To Sherlock Holmes she is always the woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name. In his eyes, she eclipses... the whole of her sex. It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler. All emotions and that one particularly were abhorrent to his cold, precise, but admirably balanced mind."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. *A Scandal in Bohemia*

### SHORT, SHARP AND PUNCHY

"It was about eleven o'clock, mid-October, with the sun not shining and a look of hard wet rain in the clearness of the foothills. I was wearing my powder-blue suit, with dark shirt, tie and handkerchiefs; black brogues, black wool socks with dark blue socks on them. I was neat, clean, shaved and sober, and I didn't care who knew it."

Raymond Chandler. *The Big Sleep*



Heroes of books, films and now the classroom: Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlowe

structured plots. He suggested that schools capturing boys' interest in this way could move on to other authors — such as H.G. Wells or John Buchan — and then towards those who are perceived by boys as too feminine, such as Jane Austen. Professor Smithers added: "Reading is a

means to an end, and to access these skills you have to engage pupils' interest. "Boys tend to be more interested in order and pattern, as well as the investigative ideas behind a detective story and non-fiction. It can be very satisfying for them to pick their way through that investi-

gation and come to the right answer." To engage the interest of boys in primary schools, the authority's report will advise teachers not to disapprove of the way boys generally seem more influenced than girls by action heroes on television. Rather, they should encourage

boys to make up stories using these characters, increasing their ability to construct a narrative and to develop character. Holmes and Marlowe have a rather longer pedigree. Conan Doyle's analytical hero became popular in the 1890s, and successive film and tele-

vision adaptations have long outlasted his creator, who died in 1930. Chandler's private-eye novels were launched in 1939 and have been the subject of several Hollywood films. The author died in 1959.

Leading article, page 21

## Study of English tests at 14 identifies problems

By DAVID CHARTER

AN ANALYSIS of English tests for 14-year-olds has found fundamental problems with spelling, grammar and punctuation, and "significant weaknesses" in longer written answers.

A review by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority of last summer's tests found the most common spelling errors were confusions between "there" and "they're", and "of" and "off". Punctuating speech also presented difficulties.

Teachers remain unconvinced of the value of separate tests for grammar, punctuation and spelling, the report found.

Details of the papers set by pupils at the ages of seven, 11 and 14 in English, mathematics and, for the later age groups, science, are to be released today. Several concerns about the standards reached by children will be highlighted, including that in science tests at 14, more than half of children did not know that the Sun rises in the East and sets in the West, and in mathematics, substantial numbers of 14-year-olds did not understand decimals, percentages and fractions.

The authority will also release details of experimental tests on nine-year-olds, which some curriculum advisers believe should be introduced nationally to focus schools on standards in the junior age range. Several studies have shown children making erratic progress between the ages of seven and 11.

The experimental tests in 270 schools last summer are expected to show widespread difficulty with mental arithmetic and English grammar. While 75 per cent of seven-year-olds achieved expected standards in English and mathematics, this fell to about 60 per cent for nine-year-olds. Only 20 per cent could multiply 56 by 100.

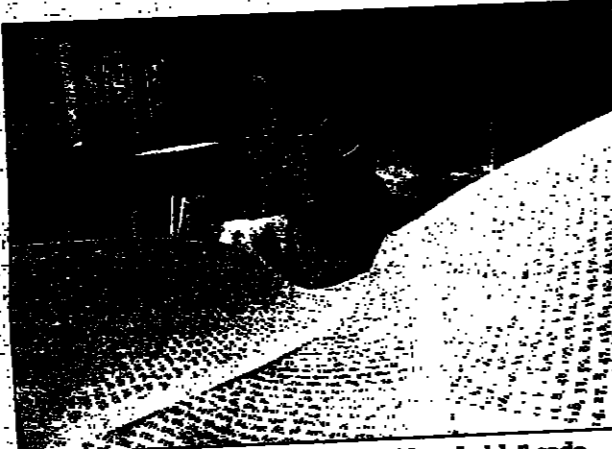
"I love talking about science. As a scientist, it's relatively easy for me to learn about the arts, with books in plain English. But for an artist who wants to learn about science, the language can be impenetrable. With this, all the reader will need is curiosity."

# Book offers £10,000 for reader who cracks the code

By DAVID ALBERGE

A YOUNG British writer who defied the laws of probability by turning a book on mathematics into a bestseller is to write a history of cryptology in which he will tease the reader by burying a tantalising code of his own into the text. The first reader to unravel the cipher will win a prize of more than £10,000.

In a world of ever-widening attention spans, Simon Singh, 33, has found an ingenious way to keep his readers gripped. It gives a double dimension to stories about codes that will range from the Romans — who would conceal information on a messenger's scalp — to a mysterious 19th-century American prospect called Thomas Jefferson Beale, who left an unbreakable code to protect \$20 million worth of buried gold and silver. It is a logical follow-up to Singh's first book, *Fermat's*



Singh with Thomas Beale's "unbreakable" code

*Last Theorem*, a tale of how the greatest minds tried for 358 years to crack a great mathematical riddle. The four or five publishers who turned down that book were now kicking themselves, said his agent, Patrick Walsh, of the firm Christopher Little. Not only has *Fermat's Last*

*Theorem* topped bestseller lists since it was published last June, but the rights to it have been sold in 21 different countries from Estonia to Japan. It was published by Fourth Estate, which has just commissioned the code book. Although Kit Williams devised a riddle that led readers

to a golden hare, Mr Walsh said that the new book was "the only serious book of non-fiction ever to contain a code within the fabric".

The tools for breaking the code would be within the text, the author said. "If you come with no knowledge, reading the history of cryptology gives a decent starting-point for trying to break the cipher within the book. It's not going to be easy."

But he will ensure that its construction will allow amateurs as well as professionals to have a go: it will be complex enough to take months of work. "I will enjoy imagining people struggling to try and solve it."

Singh, born in Somerset, studied physics at Imperial College, London, and took a PhD in particle physics at Cambridge. He worked for five years on BBC's *Tomorrow's World*, and in 1996 co-produced and directed an award-winning *Horizon* doc-

umentary on Fermat's Last Theorem.

He said of the code book: "It is said that the First World War was the chemists' war because of the mustard gas and the introduction of chemical weapons; the Second World War was the physicists' war because of the nuclear weapons used for the first time; Heaven forbid, a Third World War would be a mathematicians' war, because it will rely so heavily on infor-

mation technology and encryption.

"Encryption today is even more relevant than it has been in the past. In the 15th century, it was just used by the royal court. As the centuries progressed, it was used by the military. They still rely on it today, but it is also used by everyone from bankers to someone sending e-mail."

Yet, he said, until now, anything on the subject had tended to be dry and overtly

academic. "This book will be something that anybody can pick up and read. You're not going to need a degree in science."

"I love talking about science. As a scientist, it's relatively easy for me to learn about the arts, with books in plain English. But for an artist who wants to learn about science, the language can be impenetrable. With this, all the reader will need is curiosity."

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# Police set up art network to fight £500m thefts

POLICE are setting up a network of officers specialising in art and antiques, to combat annual losses of £500 million in stolen paintings, furniture and jewellery. Britain has the world's largest trade in antiques and art. Thieves educate themselves on the subject in prison, where the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* is one of the most popular television programmes. The plan will ensure that specialist detectives are appointed in each of the 43 forces in England and Wales to gather intelligence on art and antique robberies, and to act as a link between police, dealers and owners. They will brief crime squads carrying out investigations, and work with analysts at the National Criminal Intelligence Service who check the international markets. The final details of the plan are to be agreed by chief constables later this month, and growing calls from the trade for greater police activi-

**Crimewave has put Antiques Roadshow among most popular shows in jail, says Stewart Tandler**

ty. Dealers are already arguing that police will have to do more. At the moment, there are fewer than a dozen detectives who specialise in fighting art and antique thefts. Scotland Yard once had a special squad of 15 officers, but it now has one sergeant and two constables, who are often seconded to other work. Sussex Police, who cover the Brighton antiques markets, have recently closed their specialist team. The new specialists will attend briefings in May on the arts

and antiques world before starting operations in June. They will work within intelligence units, looking for patterns or suspects, and passing on files for operational detectives and other forces. At the same time, dealers have agreed to introduce a code of due diligence, under which they will agree to give police more information about doubtful deals. The code will require dealers to check and confirm the identities and addresses of vendors, and pass catalogues to police so that lots can be checked against registers of stolen property. Auctioneers will provide details of vendors who try to introduce paintings or furniture to auctions at the last minute. Eventually the policy could be used against crooked dealers, who would be challenged in court on whether they abided by the code.

Mark Dalrymple, chairman of the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft and a member of a leading firm of loss adjusters, said that the police network was welcomed by the arts trade, but there was concern that it might not be enough. The network was a "big jump forward", but many dealers would like detective squads set up as well, he said. There was concern that the intelligence officers would be bureaucrats trapped behind their desks. Charles Hill, who ran the Yard's Arts and Antiques Squad and now works as a specialist investigator, said that police could no longer rely on an ordinary officer to deal with the problem, and that detectives had to be specialists. Investigations into art thefts could lead to arrests for other crimes.

Phil Saunders, editor of *Trace* magazine, which publicises stolen art and antique treasures, includes a Louis XVI ormolu mantel clock stolen from a London gallery, and a Regency book cabinet taken from a house in the capital. Some of the raids involve scores of items. *Trace* lists 61 antiques taken in a robbery in the West End last year which included seven clocks, bronze sculptures and jade and ivory carvings, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

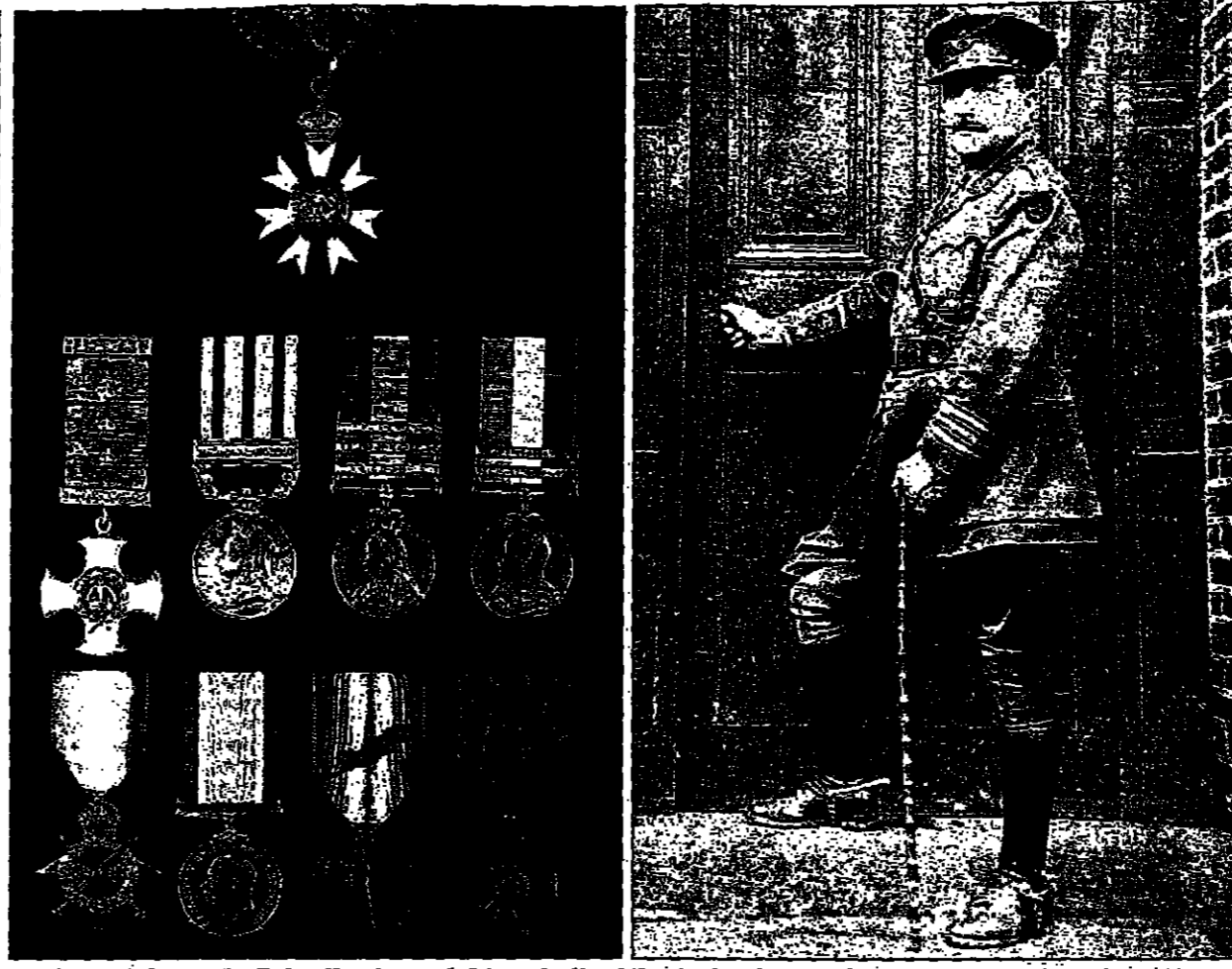
Arts, pages 18, 19

# Art worth £1bn listed as missing

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

WORKS of art worth more than £1 billion are currently listed in the files of the Art Loss Register in London as being missing. They include 349 Picassos, 250 works by Marc Chagall and 175 by Salvador Dali. The register keeps an eye on what is put on sale at auction houses and checks them against items reported as missing. Others on the list include 51 Hockneys, 269 works by Joan Miró, 121 Rembrandts and 112 Renoirs. In 1993 thieves in Frankfurt stole paintings estimated to be worth £34 million, including two Turners that were on loan from the Tate. In Britain the list of missing masterpieces includes *Stiff Life* by the French artist Jean-Baptiste Oudry, worth £5 mil-

lion, which was taken from Houghton Hall, Norfolk, the home of the Marquess of Cholmondeley, in 1990. Another £5 million masterpiece is Titian's *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*, which was stolen from Longleat in Wiltshire in 1995. The latest issue of *Trace* magazine, which publicises stolen art and antique treasures, includes a Louis XVI ormolu mantel clock stolen from a London gallery, and a Regency book cabinet taken from a house in the capital. Some of the raids involve scores of items. *Trace* lists 61 antiques taken in a robbery in the West End last year which included seven clocks, bronze sculptures and jade and ivory carvings, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.



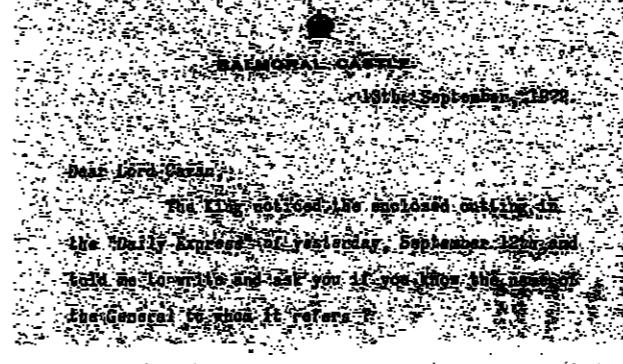
The medals won by Brigadier-General Edward Allan Wood. They include four Distinguished Service Orders

# Forgotten war hero who lost his battle to live in peace

By Damian Whitworth

ON THE battlefield he was a brilliant general whose fearlessness won him the respect of his troops and some of the highest military honours. Back home he was lost, a pathetic, jobless figure. Even the King, touched by his plight, could not save him from ending his days pleading poverty.

The story of a First World War hero's dazzling war and wretched peace has emerged from newly released documents. For his astonishing deeds on the Western Front, Brigadier-General Edward Allan Wood was awarded four Distinguished Service Orders and appeared to have been turned down for the Victoria Cross only because he was too brave - he broke regulations by leading his troops from the front. The 4in-thick file on Wood, just released at the Public Record Office at Kew, details exploits including being "once buried, twice gassed,



The letter in which George V's interest was revealed

three times wounded, seven times mentioned in dispatches, four times awarded the DSO". But after his exploits in the trenches, Wood was engaged in a 12-year war of attrition with the War Office over his claim for a pension, which dragged in some of the grandest people of the day, including George V and Winston Churchill. His problems started almost as soon as he returned to England. Aged

over 50, he struggled to find new employment. He had been only a temporary officer and so was not qualified for a pension. He deluged the War Office with correspondence claiming that he was desperate and unable to pay his children's school fees. In 1922, shortly after Wood had petitioned the Prince of Wales, the *Daily Express* reported, without naming him, that he was living in two rooms in North London and

tramping the streets. Days later, the War Office received a letter from Balmoral. George V, a private secretary noted, "thought that his record, if accurately given, was a rather remarkable one, and the King would be glad to know how it comes about that he should not be entitled to a pension".

After considerable toing and froing, the King was told that £50 had been found for Wood from the Officers' Association Relief Fund. The War Office's refusal to bend the rules may lie in Wood's apparently disastrous way with money as he tried to adjust to civilian life. The file reveals that, in 1920, the Officers' Association lent him £300 to "take up an appointment in Calcutta". He neither went nor repaid most of the loan after going bankrupt while trying to form a bridge club. He died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1930. Shortly before his death, he was still firing off letters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Christmas lottery jackpot unclaimed

A winning lottery ticket for a £2.4 million share of the jackpot in the Christmas Eve draw is still unclaimed after almost seven weeks. The ticket was bought in East Lothian, and bears the numbers 5, 6, 11, 29, 36, and 41. If the £2,491,514 is still unclaimed when the 180-day time limit expires it will be the biggest prize to be forfeited in the three-year history of the lottery. A total of £125,092,976 in prize money has not been claimed. Lottery numbers, page 24

## Takes the biscuit

A chain of bakery shops in Milton Keynes has told staff to refer to gingerbread men as gingerbread persons. The firm said: "You have to be politically correct nowadays. We got dozens of complaints, mainly from young women."

## Murder charge

A 37-year-old woman is to be charged with the murder of her common-law husband, Lorraine Randles, of Blackley, Manchester, was arrested on Friday after police and paramedics were called to help Paul Morgan, 45.

## Free Pill backed

More than 98 per cent of people believe that the contraceptive Pill should remain free on the NHS, a survey by NOP has revealed. It had been reported that the Government was considering charging better-off women for the Pill.

## Firework fears

Firework sellers want compensation after bangers and rockets were outlawed on December 31. The industry says it fears that shopkeepers may try to sell or dump their stock of more than 20 million illegal fireworks.

## Road runner

A lorry driver telephoned police to say that he had just been overtaken by an ostrich on the A5. The bird, running at 40mph through a field, had escaped from a farm near Cranham, Lincolnshire. It was eventually shot.

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# Arafat's police blamed over pro-Iraq rioting



Zhirinovskiy, threats as mission blocked

## Moscow condemns US bid for 'hegemony'

BY RICHARD OWEN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ON THE eve of his visit to Rome today, President Yeltsin yesterday said he was "strongly opposed" to an American and British military attack on Iraq and condemned US "world dominance" and attempts at "global hegemony".

The Russian leader, who will meet the Pope as well as Italian leaders, said "attempts by some countries to impose a unipolar model on the world are not only unrealistic but also dangerous".

Yesterday a Russian airlift to Iraq descended into farce before getting off the ground. There were conflicting reports on why an Illyushin 86 charter flight with nearly 50 Russian MPs, dozens of journalists and several tonnes of aid failed to take off from Moscow on a humanitarian mission to Baghdad.

Blame was laid both on Iran and Azerbaijan for denying overflight permission, despite threats from the ultra-nationalist, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, to sever diplomatic relations or force a vote of no-confidence in the Russian Government.

Later, an ambulance pulled up beside the plane and Russian television said that it had been called to treat Mr Zhirinovskiy's vocal cords.

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

ISRAEL yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of whipping up riots in support of Iraq after weekend violence in Bethlehem in which 15 people, including three journalists working for Western news agencies, were injured.

Clinton, go back to your sexual affairs and forget about Iraq, and "Clinton is a coward" - go look for women - taunted 1,000 Palestinian demonstrators waving Iraqi flags and carrying pictures of President Saddam Hussein as they marched on Israeli troops on the outskirts of the West Bank city now under Palestinian control.

Palestinian flags were held aloft, the Stars and Stripes set ablaze and Britain was denounced for its role in backing America. Many of the protesters predicted that violence would intensify with pro-Iraq "committees" springing up in Gaza and the West Bank towns under self-rule.

The fervour of the protesters, some masked and others chanting "Down with America", reflected growing support for Saddam among the 2.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A senior Israeli official said Palestinian support was more

## ISRAEL

continuous than during the 1991 Gulf War, since they now have an armed police force.

"Saddam is a symbol of the honour and pride of the Arabs and we are with him," declared one 15-year-old demonstrator, Ali Taqatqa, as the crowd began hurling stones at Israeli troops. The soldiers replied with teargas and rubber-coated metal bullets which in addition to the journalists, injured three Palestinian policemen and eight protesters.

The protest was the largest pro-Iraqi demonstration in the West Bank since the latest Iraq-UN crisis began. Coming at a time when the peace process has been deadlocked for 11 months and is close to collapse, the scenes evoked bitter memories for Israelis of 1991, when Palestinians cheered from the flat rooftops of their homes as Iraqi Scud missiles flew on their way to hit Tel Aviv.

David Bar-Ilan, the communications director to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, alleged that the new upsurge of demonstrations, which began last week in Ramallah, was organised by the Palestinian Authority and that the Palestinian police did not

make "a serious effort" to disperse them.

Ahmed Abdel Rahman, the Palestinian Cabinet Secretary, warned Israel against attacking Iraq, saying that such a move - widely predicted in the event of any Iraqi missile again hitting the Jewish state - would arouse the ire of the Arabs and Palestinians. He said the crisis between Iraq and America had worsened because Iraq did not implement UN resolutions, while in contrast, no measures had been taken against Israel, which he said had been flouting UN resolutions concerning the occupied territories for 30 years. "The double standard is unacceptable."

On the streets of Bethlehem, anger about alleged Western double standards was again to the fore as it was in 1991 when Israel placed the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under curfew for seven weeks, arguing that they were a security risk. "President Clinton is attacking Iraq to cover up his own sexual problems in America," said one of the demonstrators. "We would be happy if Iraq fired missiles at Israel," Yasser Arafat said earlier that the Gulf crisis "puts the Arab world in a difficult situation".

Letters, page 21



An Iraqi woman collects her food ration from a shop outside Baghdad yesterday

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Flipper of lost diver is found

Brisbane: A flipper, marked "Eileen L.", was found yesterday on a remote Queensland beach - the first sign of an American woman left behind on a diving trip. Eileen and Thomas Loneragan, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were last seen two weeks ago on a trip to the Great Barrier Reef with 24 other divers. The dive boat returned to port without them, and their absence was not noticed until 48 hours later. A buoyancy vest belonging to her husband was found in the same area north of Cooktown last week, according to police. (AP)

### Jet shot down

Freetown: A Nigerian warplane of the West African peacekeeping force was shot down yesterday by Sierra Leonean army gunners near here. Nigerian-led peacekeeping troops were said to be six miles from the centre of the capital. (Reuters, AP)

### Jordan payout

Jerusalem: Jordan gave Israel \$1 million (£617,000) to compensate families of Israeli schoolgirls killed or injured in a shooting by a Jordanian soldier last March. Seven girls were killed and five others hurt on the Jordanian side of the joint border. (AFP)

### Editor to die

Tehran: The Iranian Supreme Court ratified the death sentence for Morteza Firooz, a journalist convicted of spying, a newspaper said. Firooz, former editor-in-chief of Iran News, has been in custody since May. (Reuters)

### Mahathir plea

Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, appealed for public donations to strengthen Malaysia's dwindling foreign exchange reserves. (AFP)

# Riyadh rejection of force threatens strike plan

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND PETER REDDELL

## SAUDI ARABIA

THE ability of the United States to launch a sustained bombing campaign against Iraq appeared to have suffered a serious setback yesterday when the Saudi Defence Minister declared his country's opposition to military action. Any attack would lose 30 per cent of its potency if American strike aircraft were not allowed to operate from Saudi bases, according to American military planners.

"We will not agree and we are against striking Iraq as a people and as a nation," Prince Sultan was quoted as saying in the English language Arab News. His remarks,

which appeared to rule out the use of Saudi air bases for attack aircraft, came just hours before his brother, King Fahd, was due to hold talks with William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary.

King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, his designated successor, would have the last word on the extent of any Saudi co-operation. Diplomats thought it likely that the kingdom's airspace would be made available, as would its bases for support aircraft.

"If we can't use strike aircraft from Saudi Arabia, we lose about 30 per cent of our shooter force," an American military officer involved in the

plans told The Washington Post last week. "But if we can still use the support planes, then we can concentrate our shooters in Kuwait, Bahrain and aboard the carriers."

Mr Cohen ordered more than 40 more American combat and support aircraft to the Gulf on Saturday, bringing the total of US military aircraft there to almost 370, most of them on board three aircraft carriers. Eight British Tornado bombers are due in Kuwait today.

During their talks in Washington, Tony Blair and President Clinton agreed on a broad strategy. The aim of bombing and missile attacks would be to destroy and create maximum damage to installations suspected of being involved in chemical, biological and nuclear pro-

grammes, as well as to Iraq's air force and missile capacity. This is partly because the leaders accept that the United Nations arms inspectors are unlikely to be allowed to return to Iraq after such attacks. Attacks will also be aimed against the Republican Guard and other military units in an effort to weaken the current regime.

The 22-member Arab League, which is adamant that force must not be used, said a UN Security Council draft resolution was being prepared to resolve the crisis over weapons inspections and allow arms experts access to palaces at the centre of the dispute. Few details emerged, but it appeared to centre on Russian proposals that would give President Saddam Hussein a way out.

The composition of the inspection teams, which Iraq complains are dominated by American and British members, would be altered and a time limit set for their work, diplomats said. Saddam was also reported to have written to President Saleh of Yemen that he was ready to open eight palaces provided sanctions were ended.

Of America's Gulf allies, only Kuwait, which was occupied by Iraq for seven months and relies on US muscle for its survival, has indicated that its territory could be used for an attack on Iraq. It said on Saturday it would call up a reserve force of 24,000 to defend the country. Saudi Arabia was also reported to have put its forces on alert and boosted security along its northern border with Iraq.

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# Lewinsky lawyer accuses Starr of arm-twisting

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR, the independent counsel investigating Monica Lewinsky, was accused yesterday of intimidating her to testify about her relationship with President Clinton.

The allegation was levelled by her lawyer, William Ginsburg, who said Mr Starr's strong-arm tactics were designed to pressure her into "saying things we cannot say" about Mr Clinton's alleged misconduct.

The accusation came as the President was criticised in editorials in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* for saying during his press conference with Tony Blair that he was under a court order to say nothing more about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky. Both newspapers said that he was under no such constraint.

Mr Ginsburg's attack on Mr Starr came after barbed exchanges between the independent counsel and White

House lawyers, with each side accusing the other of leaking facts to reporters in violation of the secrecy of a grand jury investigation into the case. The normally mild-mannered Mr Starr said that the White House tactics were "out of control".

Joining the legal fray, Mr Ginsburg said Mr Starr was trying to coerce Ms Lewinsky to testify by selectively leaking information designed to make her think that he has other witnesses and might not need her help. Mr Starr denied the accusation.

Mr Ginsburg complained that Ms Lewinsky, a former White House trainee, was caught between President Clinton and Mr Starr, who were engaged in a contest in which he said his client was just a pawn.

"It's all pressure, all an orchestrated campaign to get my client to do more than she can or will do," Mr Ginsburg told *The Washington Post*

of Los Angeles, where Ms Lewinsky is staying with her father. He complained about pressure on Ms Lewinsky's relatives, saying Mr Starr had sent FBI agents to see her mother, Marcia Lewis, and twice to interview her brother Michael, a university student, who knew nothing about his sister's social life.

An issue is whether Ms Lewinsky will co-operate with Mr Starr's investigation by saying Mr Clinton obstructed justice by persuading her to lie about their sexual relationship and also committed perjury when he denied having an affair with her in his deposition in the Paula Jones case.

Ms Lewinsky wants immunity from prosecution in exchange for her testimony. Mr Ginsburg made a written offer of a deal last week which he thought Mr Starr had accepted. Apparently it did not go far enough, and Mr Ginsburg now accuses Mr Starr of renegeing on it.



Carl Wilson, right, with fellow Beach Boys, Bruce Johnston, left, and Mike Love, in 1992. He was "the rock on which the group was founded"

## Beach Boy vocalist Carl Wilson dies aged 51

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

CARL WILSON, whose voice and guitar skills gave The Beach Boys their distinctive sound, has died in California after a struggle with cancer and years of strain as the

peacemaker between feuding band members. He was 51.

Wilson died in a Los Angeles hospital from complications of lung cancer on Friday night. His wife, Gina, and two adult sons were at his side, but his surviving older brother, Brian, was conspicuously

absent. The two had never been reconciled after a bitter court battle seven years ago, in which Carl said his brother had fallen under the control of his psychologist.

Often described as the forgotten Beach Boy, Carl was nonetheless integral to the

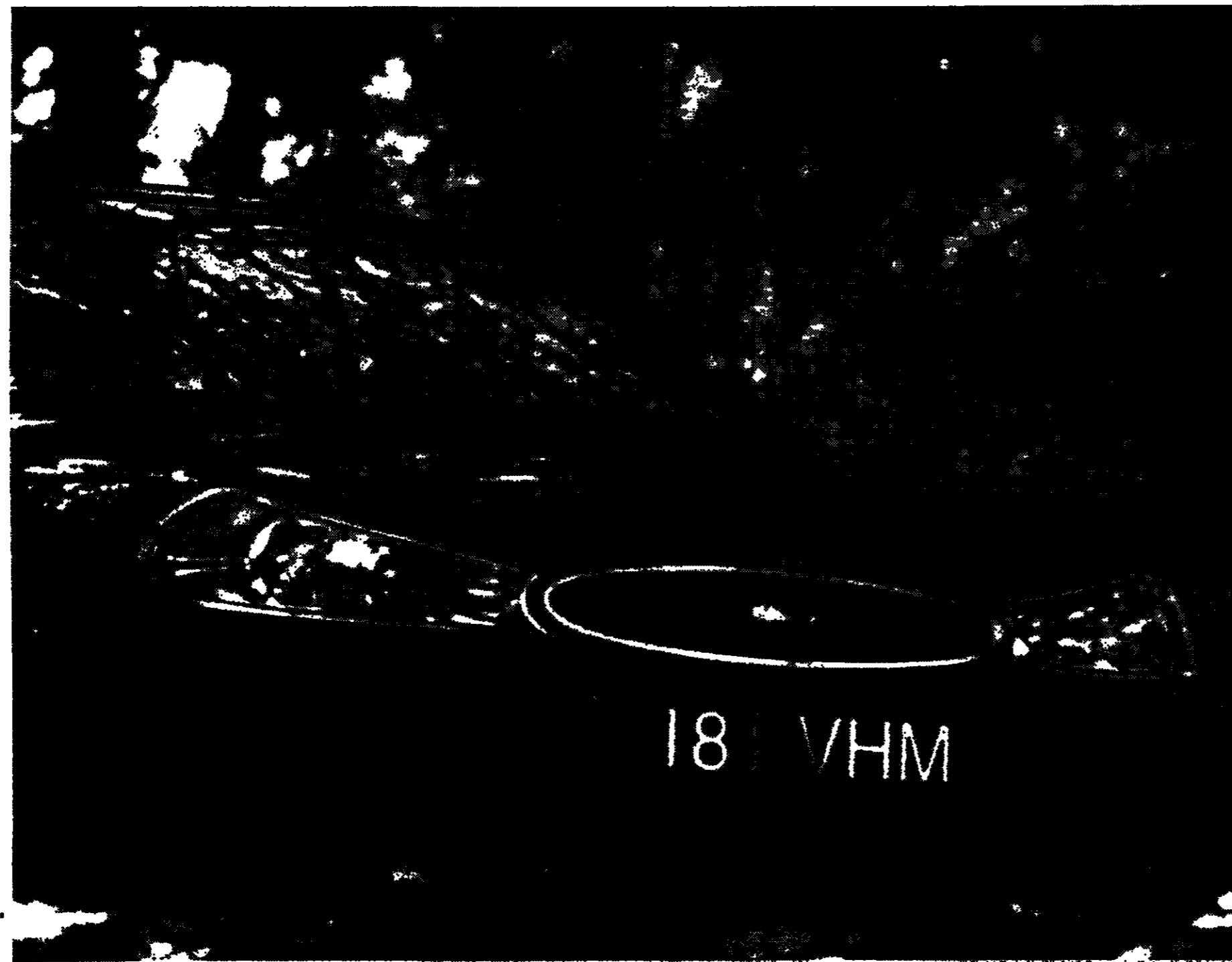
group's success. As singer and lead guitarist he brought snappy instrumental riffs and a high, sometimes plaintive voice to such international hits as *Wouldn't It Be Nice* and *Good Vibrations*.

The Beach Boys' image as clean-cut young men was belied by drug problems and three decades of highly publicised mental illness for Brian. But Carl was remembered yesterday as a gifted vocalist and the "glue" that kept the band together. Blessed with perfect pitch — "he could sing the phone book and it would sound good", said Andy Paley, the songwriter and producer — he was also "like a rock for the group", according to Sandy Friedman, The Beach Boys' publicist from 1975 to 1992. "He was the steady one. He was the filler."

Founded five miles from the beach in the Los Angeles suburb of Hawthorne amid California's surf-music craze

of the late 1950s, the group's original members were Brian, Carl and Dennis Wilson, their cousin Mike Love and Alan Jardine, a friend. After a nervous public debut with only three new songs in 1961, The Beach Boys rode a tidal wave of adulation for five years, embodying the optimism of the age and selling millions of records. Only two of their singles — *Good Vibrations* and *I Get Around* — sold more than a million copies, but nine albums, including *Surfer's USA* and *All Summer Long*, did.

Even at the peak of his fame and wealth, Carl Wilson was happy to cede the spotlight to his songwriter brother, who claims to have been viciously beaten by his father as a child and began dabbling in drugs in 1966. Despite having lung cancer diagnosed a year ago, Carl Wilson completed the group's 1997 tour. "He was a real fighter," said Alyson Dutch, the band's publicist.



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The Beach Boys arrive in Britain for the first time in 1964. Carl Wilson is at the back, on the left

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# Heavyweight Kohl gasping on the ropes as enemies land their punches

**B**ill Clinton's adventures have sparked German interest in the physiognomy of their own leader. German politicians do not have sex lives, although tending to compare with the French. The eternal commuting between Bonn and Berlin allows parliamentarians to run two households: the mobile telephone camouflages one's location. There is, however, no suggestion that the Chancellor is up to anything. If there is space in his diary, it is dedicated to that other earthy passion, food.

There is a new focus, however, on the physical wearability of Herr Kohl. *Stern* has produced a re-

## INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

markably intrusive assessment of the Chancellor's health. Doctors doubt the flattering leaks from the Chancellery that Herr Kohl weighs a mere 150kg (20st

9lb); he is closer, they believe, to 25st. A paparazzo photograph of the Chancellor, published by the magazine, shows the scope of the problem. At 67 and with a height of 6ft, it is little wonder that he sometimes seems to be gasping for breath. His heart, concludes the magazine, is under immense strain.

The same might be said of the European institutions that have been so skilfully manipulated by the Chancellor. The management of European affairs, before and after German unification, became an extension of Herr Kohl's telephone politics. His methods of cementing power in the provinces (rewarding

loyalty, squaring deals) have been deployed to run the continent.

Last week Jerzy Buzek, the Polish Prime Minister, after a long session with the Chancellor, declared him to be a "true friend of the Poles". After only a few months in office, he has been invited to eat pork knuckle at the Chancellor's home (John Major had to wait years).

Herr Kohl's personal politics set the tone of German-Russian relations; they allowed US-German relations to thrive even without an American ambassador in Bonn. Presidents Yeltsin and

Clinton, even President Chirac, have accepted the terms of the arrangement: that Herr Kohl is the spider at the centre of a cellular web.

The Chancellor, however, is about to bow out and few foreign politicians are ready. One rumour in Bonn is that Herr Kohl, perhaps on doctors' advice, will step aside next month after the Social Democrats have named their challenger for the Chancellery. The Chancellor's right hand man, Wolfgang Schäuble, is given reasonable chances by the pollsters of heading Oskar Lafontaine, a leading Social Democrat.

The second theory is that the balance of forces after

September elections will produce a grand coalition of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, with Herr Kohl superfluous.

The third is that his present coalition with the liberal Free Democrats somehow survives and the Chancellor chooses his own exit soon after the introduction of the euro, perhaps in the summer of 1999.

Whatever the outcome, it is unlikely that Herr Kohl will be the guiding hand in Europe in 18 months. His ruling system has already begun to unravel. The economy, never his strength, seems to have wriggled out of the grasp of his Government.

Power is seeping away from the centre, towards the provincial states. His own advisers, notably his foreign policy guru, Joachim Bitterlich, are looking for new jobs.

His hold on the party is still firm, but there is a growing realisation that blind loyalty to the leader is no longer the key to promotion. The Chancellor is becoming an isolated figure in his own Government.

We are witnessing the final twitches of the Kohl system: the horsestrading over the future presidency of the European Central Bank and other top posts is demanding all his energy. The weaken-

ing of Herr Kohl is one reason the bargaining has taken so long. European economic and monetary union is the last act of the old Kohlman Europe, rather than the dawn of a new era.

There is a school of thought that European integration is driven only by crisis: that EMU will generate divisions within societies and within Europe, and that this in turn will force the pace of political integration. Perhaps that is the calculation of the Kohl team. Certainly they cannot believe in the risk-free currency promoted in advertisements. In any case, the drama will have to be played out in the absence of the Chancellor.

# US 'tampered' with black box in cable crash

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN NAPLES

THE row over the future of US base in Italy worsened yesterday with allegations that American officials had tampered with the flight recorder of a US aircraft that caused last Tuesday's cable-car disaster in the Dolomites.

President Clinton assured Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, at the weekend that there would be a "full and open investigation" into the tragedy, when an EA6 Prowler, used for electronic warfare in Bosnia, severed the wire of a cable car at Cavese, sending 20 people to their deaths.

Italian newspapers yesterday carried front-page photographs of the funeral for the three Italian victims of the disaster, two women skiers and the cable-car operator. Italia television said it was a miracle that the jet, which clipped the wire with its wing and lid, had not crashed into the nearby resort, "covering the sea with explosive fuel".

An Nato meeting in Munich with William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, agreed with Beniamino Andreotta, his Italian counterpart, that low-level flying would be confined to military areas, and repeated America's "regret at this terrible accident". But *La Repubblica* noted that it had taken four days for Washington to "speak up and order the Marines into line", and said

Rome was seething over American military obstruction and evasion. The four crew members involved have refused to co-operate with Italian investigators, insisting on their right to a trial in the United States.

At Aviano, the base from which the Prowler took off on its ill-fated training flight, Francesco Granero, the public prosecutor, said US commanders had at first denied the plane carried a black box flight recorder and had then handed it over "incomplete". "It seems the flight recorder was removed before all the electrical contacts had been switched off," he said. "This makes much of the information indecipherable."

The shock waves of what Signor Prodi called a "tragically reckless act" have reverberated down the Italian peninsula to the Naples area, which accommodates the Sixth Fleet headquarters and the Nato Southern Command. The US has 26 bases and other military installations in Italy, from Aviano in the north to Sigonella in Sicily. Both the US and Nato forces in Naples are commanded by an American, Admiral Joseph Lopez.

Italians from President Scalfaro downwards are convinced that the Prowler pilot was playing a daredevil game by flying under the cable-car wire, and the resulting resent-

ment has fuelled demand for the US bases to be placed under Italian sovereignty, or even closed down. The Sixth Fleet moved to Naples from Villefranche in 1967, and Italy was happy to act as America's "aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean" under a series of Christian Democrat administrations, despite left-wing protests.

But the Left came to power in Italy nearly two years ago, with the former Communists transformed into the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS). The PDS takes a pro-Nato stand, but many of its senior officials regard the bases as Cold War relics.

Some Naples residents, not least the girls in its bars and discos, think Italy should not judge the Americans by one incident. "The pilots involved must be punished, but that does not mean all Americans are to blame," said a customer at the Donald Duck pub and pool hall on the waterfront at Casca, where the Sixth Fleet is based. "They are nice guys."

But Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of Italy's Fascist dictator and MP for Naples, said the black-box report showed that the Clinton Administration had to show "maximum transparency".

"The image of the United States in Europe is at stake," said Signora Mussolini. "Justice must be seen to be done."



Dominique Erignac, widow of the shot official, with her son Charles-Antoine and daughter Christophine outside Ajaccio prefecture yesterday

# Chirac pays tribute to prefect murdered in Corsica

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC will today lead national homage to France's most senior government official in Corsica who was shot dead on Friday, a victim of 22 years of conflict on the island.

The murder of Claude Erignac, 60, has prompted a wave of indignation and increased fears that Corsica is turning into a Mafia-ridden society comparable with Sicily. Police believe the killers may have been working for one of the organised crime syndicates who use Corsica's splintered national

terrorist movement as a front for their activities. The French Interior Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, said yesterday: "There are a certain number of economic interests in the background."

M Erignac was shot in the back of the head on his way to a concert in Ajaccio. He is the most prominent public figure to have died as a result of the terrorism that has accompanied the struggle for autonomy from mainland France. He was appointed last January as Prefect, a post created in the Napoleonic era which combines the role of police chief with wide-ranging

administrative powers. A pistol, stolen from a Corsican policeman kidnapped in September, was found at the scene and three men, all in their early twenties, were arrested shortly afterwards.

"We were said by the French press to be of Moroccan origin and were in police custody last night. Police sources suggested that the suspects may have been hired gunmen."

President Chirac said he was greatly saddened by the shooting. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, who will join the head of state at a ceremony for M Erignac in Ajaccio today, said: "This

incredible and abject action strikes the entire nation." His words were echoed across the political spectrum and even Corsica's main nationalist organisation, the FNLC, condemned the killing. The organisation, whose strategy is to bomb buildings but avoid loss of life, fears a backlash on an island where an overwhelming majority of the population yearns for peace.

The FNLC's reaction lends weight to the theory that M Erignac was killed by a splinter group, Sampieru, which claimed responsibility for the September kidnapping during which the pistol was stolen.

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**Nicosia vote set for close finish**

Nicosia: Greek Cypriots voted yesterday in a neck-and-neck presidential election seen as crucial to the divided Mediterranean island's reunification talks and its hopes of joining the European Union.

The Cyprus election was expected to be inconclusive with none of the seven candidates, including Glafcos Clerides, the incumbent conservative, securing an outright majority. As voting ended, pollsters predicted a close finish between Mr Clerides, 78, and George Iakowou, 59, a former Foreign Minister.

Both said they were confident of victory. If no candidate

**French bakers forced to swallow their pride**

BY ADAM SAGE

FRENCH bakers suffered the ignominy on Saturday of seeing, for the first time, a foreigner win the annual prize for best baguette of the year.

Antonio Teixeira, 32, born in Portugal, was awarded the Grand Prix de la Baguette at a time when Gallic bread is facing a renewed assault from the white sliced loaf. M Teixeira said traditional *boulangers* had only themselves to blame. "The quality of French bread has declined," he said. "Good bakers have become difficult to find, because they tried too hard to reduce their costs."

M Teixeira, who came to France from Fafe, northern Portugal, when seven, said the success of his shop in

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14 OVERSEAS NEWS

# Aftershock adds to Afghan toll as cold hits rescue

BY ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO hundred and fifty people were reported killed and 50 injured yesterday in an aftershock that hit the same area of northern Afghanistan where up to 4,000 may have died in a quake last week.

The Afghan Embassy in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, said the second tremor struck as relief workers using shovels dug through the rubble to pull out the bodies of some of the victims of last Wednesday's quake in the remote province of Dakhar. Thousands of survivors suffered in below-freezing temperatures as harsh weather impeded supply of food and medicine.

Last night ten British volunteers were flying out to Afghanistan to search for survivors. The volunteers, to be followed tomorrow by seven more, include two Scottish firemen, a woman sales representative from Nottingham, and a policewoman from Liverpool. All are members of the International Rescue Corps.

More villages were devastated in the fresh tremors which jolted northern Afghanistan near the Tajikistan border, as volunteers and aid agencies hurried to reach the affected area.

A Red Cross plane carrying emergency medical supplies managed to land at a broken muddy airstrip near the site of the quake, after an earlier attempt failed because of low visibility. The aid workers were also trying to reach the area by road, but the access has become difficult because of continuing civil war which has left roads destroyed.

United Nations and Red Cross officials in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, said they have sufficient food, medicine and tent supplies available but they were facing immense logistical problems in getting them through to the mountainous, snow-covered terrain. Continuing tremors have cracked open mountain roads, further frustrating the efforts

by the foreign aid organisations to reach the area. A UN team is expected to fly by helicopter to the disaster site today to assess the extent of damage. The anti-Taliban Northern Military Alliance, which controls Dakhar province, is also reported to have assembled 30 helicopters to fly in emergency supplies.

Officials of the alliance said several villages were destroyed, leaving more than 15,000 people homeless. Masood Khalili, for the alliance, said most mud houses collapsed under the weight of snow on the roofs. Most of the victims were killed in their sleep.

The war between the Islamic Taliban movement, which controls 85 per cent of the country, and the alliance headed by the former President, Burhanuddin Rabbani, has also delayed the supply of relief goods. Taliban has declared a three-day ceasefire to facilitate relief.



Bertrand Picard, the Swiss leader of a round-the-world balloon attempt aborted after failing to win permission to cross China in time, is welcomed by his daughter yesterday at Geneva airport, flanked by crew members Wim Verstraeten of Belgium, left, and Britain's Andy Elson. Mr Elson, 44, last night said the crew of *Breitling Orbiter 2* had been tempted to defy China, but they

## Balloon Briton vows to try again

sacrificed their mission so that Beijing would look more favourably on the next applicants (Helen Rumbelow writes).

Mr Elson vowed to try again next year, despite modestly describing his acrobatic high-altitude repairs to the outside of the gondola as "over-

exciting", and saying he suffered from caffeine withdrawal headaches. "It was a fantastic adventure and I enjoyed 99.9 per cent of it. The other 0.1 per cent of it was character-building." When the balloon came down in a rice paddy 75 miles north of Rangoon, nine days 17 hours and

55 minutes after launching, they'd broken the record for the longest flight in any aircraft.

Describing their landing in Burma, Mr Verstraeten said they slipped between pagodas, and villagers thought the balloon was a "Buddha". Using knives, they cut a square of the canopy as a souvenir. Within 15 minutes, the balloon had gone, said Mr Picard.

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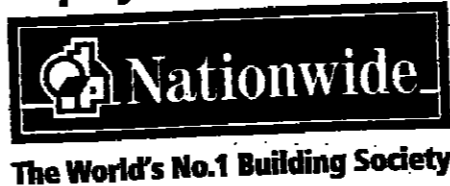
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## Gore accused of 'lacking candour' over fundraising

FROM IAN BRIDGE IN WASHINGTON

MORE trouble threatens the Clinton Administration this week with an allegation that Al Gore, the Vice-President, did know - despite his denials - that an event he attended at a Buddhist temple in California was to raise funds for the Democrats.

The accusation is contained in a draft report by Republicans on the Senate committee that investigated alleged campaign fundraising abuses in particular by President Clinton and Mr Gore in their ties with Asian donors.

The incomplete draft, appearing in American press reports yesterday apparently fails to substantiate charges that China plotted to influence the 1996 election by funneling money to the Democrats. The highly partisan document does claim that Mr Gore demonstrated a "lack of candour" regarding his role in the Buddhist fundraising event where donated money was later returned as coming illegally from a foreign source, according to *The New York Times*.

Maria Hsia, the organizer of the event, and John Frisvold, another fundraiser, among

Asians, were alleged involved in earlier illegal fundraising of campaign donations for Mr Gore. Both pleaded the Fifth Amendment privilege of avoiding self-incrimination and refused to testify during the committee's public hearings last summer. The pair were identified in the report as having arranged a meeting between Mr Gore and the head of a Chinese firm to raise links to China's political apparatus. The politicians' ties raised, without substantiation, that Mr Hsia and Mr Huang were Chinese agents. The report's initial findings were denounced by Chris Lehane, a spokesman for Mr Gore, as a "parsecious smear".

Some time this week the Republican report will give a Democratic senator on the committee, who will then have a few days to respond with a report of their own before both are made public. It is unlikely that the issue will lead to campaign finance reform in the coming months while both parties are scrambling to fill their coffers for House and Senate elections in November.



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# Luring shy scientists into the spotlight

**R**ight now, Melvyn Bragg must be the most scientifically literate person in Britain. He has spent much of the past year interviewing some of the world's leading scientists for *On Giants' Shoulders*, a Radio 4 series and accompanying book that looks at a dozen of the most important scientific ideas throughout history.

It is a surprising move from a man regarded as a leading light in the country's arts establishment. "I certainly didn't do it for the money," says Bragg, smiling wearily. "By the time you have paid the researchers and done the interviews, there is not much left. But I'm not moaning. It is a labour of love."

Over the past decade or so, 58-year-old Bragg, controller of arts at London Weekend Television, has become one of science's most powerful allies. The plum publicity engagement for any scientist, particularly one with a book to plug, must be an appearance on Radio 4's *Start the Week*, one of the nation's prime arenas for intellectual combat. Chaired by Bragg, the programme allows scientists, historians and literary figures not only to air their ideas but to exchange views, question beliefs and dissect doctrines.

His decision eight years ago to lure scientists into the intellectual fray came as a shock to the scientific community. Cosmologists and geneticists, who until then rarely stepped outside their inner circles, were being invited to subject themselves to interrogation by theologians on prime-time radio. In the first year, only two specialists volunteered to appear.

"We approached all sorts of people but they were very

**Melvyn Bragg explains why there is more to life than the arts.**

**Interview by Anjana Ahuja**

wary," says Bragg. "I found them rather like a barricaded, embattled cadre who didn't like talking to anyone else and felt that nobody apart from scientists could understand them. They felt everyone else should leave them alone."

As more specialists ventured into the studio, the audience started to climb. Now almost one in three guests on *Start the Week* is a scientist, and discussion of their ideas appears to consume much of the airtime. After the shows, Bragg says, more telephone inquiries are prompted by what scientists have said than by the opinions of other guests.

The programme's rapid success reflected an enormous public appetite for popular, accessible science. It coincided with a gradual shift in attitudes by scientists, who were beginning to write intelligent books for a wider audience. "The programme was reaching a new public who, like me, never enjoyed a proper science education," says Bragg. "Scientists were bringing us information about fundamental things, such as the nature of the Universe and the essence of life, and we felt left out. Here was a chance to get a grip on it."

Bragg's educational foray into science ended, in effect, at

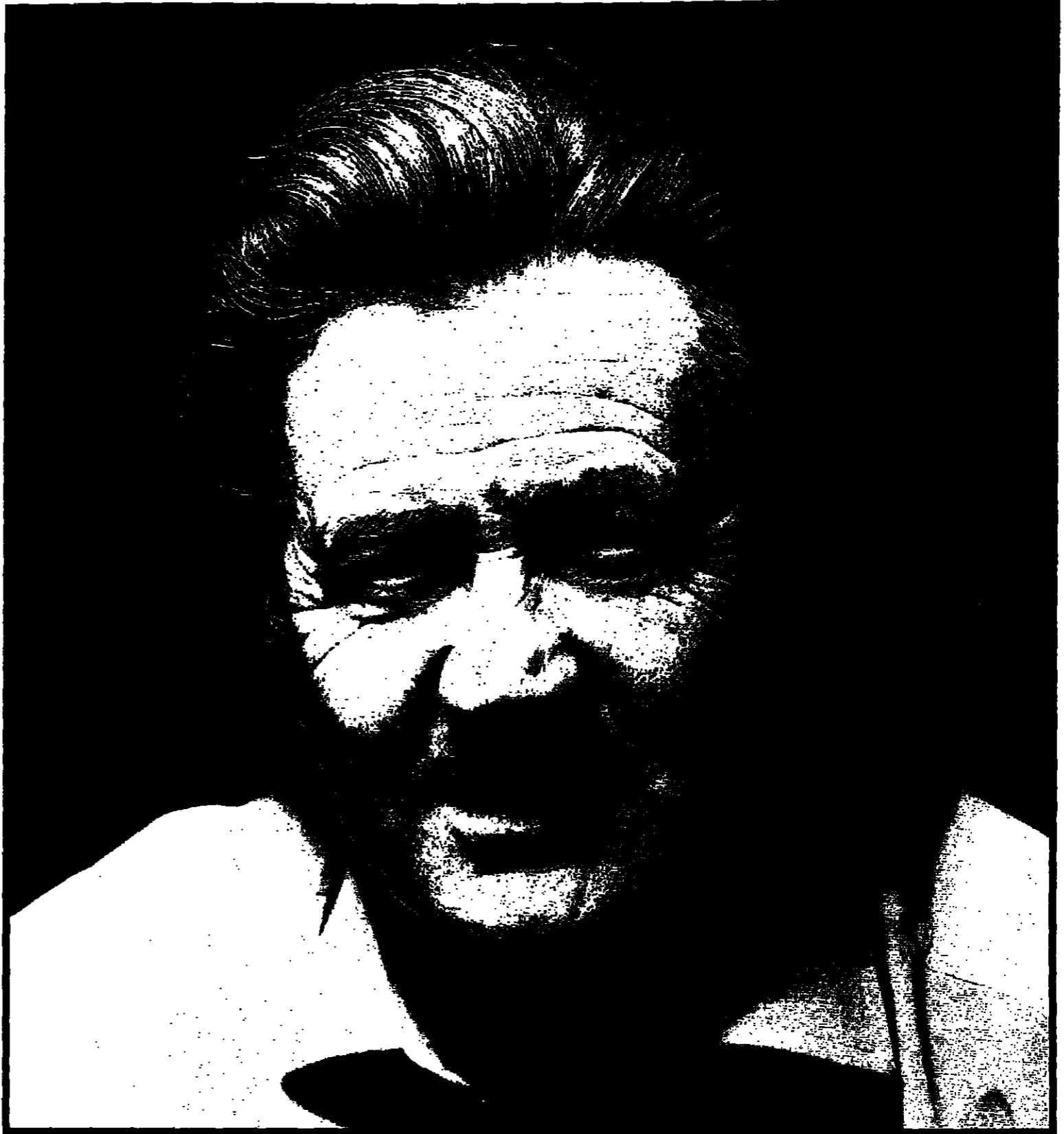
14: he took only mathematics and biology at O level. He wanted to study history, English and mathematics at A level but was persuaded to drop mathematics in favour of Latin. He went on to read history at Oxford, after which he trained as a journalist with the BBC. As well as putting together *The South Bank Show* from his stylish 22nd-floor office on the South Bank, which has spectacular views over London, he writes novels, biographies and screenplays.

About 15 years ago, he says, he began to appreciate how impoverished his arts-centred view of the world was. For the first time in his life, he turned to the science pages of newspapers and then to writers such as Richard Dawkins and Steve Jones.

**B**ragg is not particularly exercised, as many non-scientists are, about the moral, ethical and philosophical implications of scientific advances. He simply enjoys what he calls "marvellous facts" such as the idea that the Universe is more than ten billion years old.

That is why he leapt at the chance to do *On Giants' Shoulders* with producer Ruth Gardiner, which will be the focal point of a *Times/Dillons* forum next month. "I wanted to give people some idea of the range of scientists who have taken us on this colossal journey to where we are now, such as Newton, Einstein and Darwin. And I wanted to find out what current experts think of those ideas. How well have these theories stood the test of time? It was good for a layman like me to do it because it forced the scientists to be as clear as possible."

He has also been able to



Melvyn Bragg: "Scientists were bringing us information about fundamental things such as the nature of the Universe, and we felt left out."

throw off misconceptions about scientists. "They are some of the most knowledgeable people I have ever met, and know as much about music and art as they do about science." Bragg also believes they are not accorded the respect they deserve. "Although I think some scientists are paranoid, they

do have reason to grumble. When a British scientist wins a Nobel Prize, it is tucked away in the newspaper. When some painter wins a local competition, it makes the front page. That must be very galling."

Any other novice who had embarked on — and survived — such an epic scientific adventure might be rather pleased with himself. Pugnantly, Bragg seems to believe that true enlightenment will always elude him. As our meeting draws to a close, he throws his pen down, leans back in his chair and gazes out of the window. "Do you know what really annoys me about myself? When someone talks to me about painting

or literature, it sticks. I have no trouble remembering it for years. I have this mental grid that allows me to slot it into what I already know. But if someone talks to me about science, I can't seem to hold it. I don't have the steady accretion of knowledge that others have. For that reason, I will always be a beginner."

● *On Giants' Shoulders* is on Radio 4, Wednesdays, 9pm. The book, by Melvyn Bragg, will be published on March 5 by Hodder and Stoughton. Times readers can buy it for just £10.99 (a saving of £2 on the publisher's RRP of £12.99) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0900 134 459.

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Chaired by Melvyn Bragg, the forum at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, marks the publication of Bragg's new book, *On Giants' Shoulders - Great Scientists and their discoveries from Archimedes to DNA* (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.99).

The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50) includes £2 off the price of the book.

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## New spin on curling

BRITISH sports fans watching the Winter Olympics from Japan may enjoy solving a puzzle that has divided the physics community. Why do the granite stones used in curling follow a curved path as they cross the ice?

In bowling, the explanation is obvious: the bowler is out of balance, with a centre of gravity displaced from their true centre, so they curve.

But curling stones are made of blocks of homogeneous granite, and slide rather than curl. Far from curling, they should run straight.



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
 Nigel Hawkes

The first shot at an answer came from Dr Jack Allen, a physicist from St Andrews University in Fife, who explained in *Physics World* that the 20kg stones have a contact area with the ice in the form of a ring about 15cm in diameter and 1cm wide. Inside this ring the stones are concave, so their centres do not touch the ice at all. He argued that the friction between this sliding ring and the ice is the key. The frictional forces create heat, which does not melt the ice but warms it up and reduces friction to a very low level (the same phenomenon explains skiing and skating). Suppose the curler slides the stone with a slight clockwise rotation. That means that the right part of the stone moves more

slowly across the ice than the left part, producing less frictional heating, and thus greater frictional force. This exerts an unequal force on the stone, tending to curl it to the right, with the curvature becoming greater as the stone slows.

Not so fast, say three Canadian physicists. "An adequate account requires a somewhat complex analysis," declared Dr Mark Shegelski and Ross Niebergall, of the University of Northern British Columbia, and Mark Walroll, of the University of Lethbridge. They referred readers to their paper. The motion of a curling rock, asserting that to produce a sideways force on the stone, there had to be an asymmetry between the front and back of the stone, not provided for by Dr Allen.

Another explanation came from Henry Robinson, of Waterloo, who believes the pressure at the front of the stone is greater than that at the back, because friction tends to tip the stone forwards, like a braking car.

If the stone is rotating clockwise, then greater friction at the front will cause a force to the left, or if the greater pressure at the front causes a reduction in friction, according to Allen, then the force will be the other way round.

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Far left: Green knitted linen ruched sided top, £75, and olive silk shantung pedal pushers, £135, both by Whistles, 12 St. Christopher's Place, London W1 (0171-487 4484). Beige snakeskin kitten heels, £135, by Joseph Azagury for Russel & Bromley, London W1 (0171-629 6903)

Centre: Grey ballet wrap top, £59, Navy cotton pedal-pushers, £114, both by Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-590 6200)

Above left: Grey dogtooth-check top lined in orange with matching clam-diggers, £710, by Gianni Versace, 34-36 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-499 1862). Black frules, £165, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1

Left: Black drape-neck, sleeveless tank top, £109, by Clements Ribeiro (0171-409 7719). Black knitted clam-diggers, £90, by Fly Now Chapman, at Pellicano, South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-482 6570)

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# Short cut to success

This season the most fashionable trouser will be the pedal-pusher or clam-digger, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

It is 1998 and here we are, still following the rise and fall of hemlines. One thing has changed, however — trousers, not skirts, are the talking-point; and this season the most fashionable trousers will be either too long or too short. Slouch pants have ambled their way over from last season, still sweeping the

floorboards but now secured by a drawstring. The new, hot shape goes to the other extreme and rides at half-mast. Witnessing the emergence of this trend has been rather like watching someone learning to waterski. Season after season, a few designers have put pedal-pushers on the catwalk — but somehow they never quite seem to find their fashion legs and make it on to the street.

This spring, however, there has been a big push, with everyone producing some form of pedal-pusher, sawn-off capri pant or clam-digger, as they are now being called.

There is a certain amount of resistance to be overcome. Many women will look at these things and think "no way". Lowri Turner, the presenter of BBC2's *Looking Good* and an outspoken critic of women-unfriendly clothes, says: "They are one of those items that you might wear for six months when you are 16, in that brief moment when your bottom is pert and cellulite has not set in."

It is true that some of these trousers are the most unfor-

giving items of clothing you will see in a long while, crueller even than last season's Gucci disco pants. Prada's flat-fronted offerings, sawn off at the calf, are the chic ideal for spring — but if they pinch more than an inch on you, then forget it.

But there are several good reasons for investing in a pair. First, the best of this season's crop have been shorn of their

St Tropez overtones and reduced to something cool and modern in black, white, city greys and Prince-of-Wales checks. McQueen's cropped trousers are so hard that no one would dare to laugh if you wore them, while Martine Sitbon's white, calf-length trousers with

drawstring hems have a clinical edge.

The longest were at Cerruti, flaring out just at the anklebone, while Stella McCartney at Chloé produced the shortest, most feminine variation — white and above-the-knee with frills at the hem.

Only if you are suitably long of leg will you consider combining cropped pants with turn-ups, two leg-shortening styles

rolled into one. Gaultier did them in denim, and Sonia Rykiel did them in brown checks.

So who will wear them? Members of McQueen's workforce have already been spotted in them, making them look as effortless and urban as a pair of combat trousers. Anyone with skinny legs of the kind that can appear spindly with skirts should buy them instantly. The bonier you are, the better.

Lara Craik, fashion features editor of *The Face*, confesses she had a pair of brown velvet pedal-pushers when she was 12 — "I looked ridiculous in them then, and I would look ridiculous now". Nevertheless, she does own a pair of denim cropped trousers from Top Shop, her argument being: "if you must succumb to the vagaries of 'victimhood', then at least buy a cheap version so that if you don't end up wearing them very much, you won't have wasted the price of a foreign holiday on the exercise."

Tiffany Fraser Steele, fashion editor at *Marie Claire*, says that she will be getting a black pair from APC, although she appears to have given the matter some thought. "The slightly longer ones are more flattering. The on-the-knee ones are quite... difficult. I guess black is always flattering. You wouldn't catch me in white."

Their appeal could turn out to be their versatility. "The big change this season is that you can wear them in several different ways," says Fraser Steele. "You can pair them with a sporty sweat top or with one of those tops that are wrinkled around the middle, or alternatively you can put them with kitten heels and make them very 1950s."

For those who can't cut it, the cropped pant is destined to be this spring's sharpest shape. For the rest, my advice is simple: buy a dress.

**'If you can pinch any more than an inch, then forget it'**

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 1998

# Anatomy of a death

### Ben Macintyre meets two American writers whose exhaustive investigation into the death of Diana aims to separate fiction from fact

Scott MacLeod was returning home after a family holiday in the South of France when, in the early hours of August 31, he drove through the Place de L'Alma underpass beside the Seine and glimpsed flashing lights through the concrete pillars on the other side of the road tunnel.

"It looked like an accident," he recalls wryly.

With his infant daughter asleep in the back and just minutes from his apartment, the Paris-based Middle-East correspondent for *Time* magazine drove on and thought no more about it until he turned on the television while unpacking and discovered that what he had just seen was not merely another traffic accident, but what would become the most notorious car crash in history.

Over the ensuing five months, MacLeod and Thomas Sanction, *Time*'s Paris bureau chief, thought about little else as they set about compiling the most comprehensive journalistic investigation to date into the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales, her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and their French chauffeur, Henri Paul.

Diana's sudden and violent end unleashed an avalanche of news: no death since the assassination of John F. Kennedy has provoked so many theories and such a plethora of "information".

*Death of a Princess*, the 120,000-word book by Sanction and MacLeod, to be serialised in *The Times* this week, strips away the myth and fantasy that surrounds the ongoing investigation into the accident.

Over a café lunch last week, Sanction and MacLeod described an old-fashioned, characteristically American journalistic operation: an exhaustive process of checking and double-checking, involving hundreds of interviews, miles of foot-stopping, numerous dead ends and, perhaps most time-consuming and frustrating of all, repeated efforts to wring confessions out of notoriously recalcitrant medical and judicial officials.

The French police dossier on the case — containing photographs, medical and forensic evidence, depositions and eye-witness testimony — is now several feet thick: it allows many facts about the events that night to be stated with certainty, and others with confidence, but it also raises intriguing, and in some instances disquieting, questions that have yet to find answers.

"This is really two stories, one human, the other more technical," says Sanction, a rangy New Orleans native and former Rhodes scholar; at

Oxford who has worked at *Time* for almost two decades. "How did Diana get mixed up with the Fayed family? Who was Dodi? What was the nature of their relationship? Then we tried to explore what happened. What do we know? What do we not know? What is the investigation about?"

Working up to 14 hours a day, seven days a week, from *Time*'s bureau — just 200 yards from the accident site — with the aid of two researchers, the journalists whittled away at the story. Every aspect of the accident and its after-



Thomas Sanction, outraged



Scott MacLeod, passed crash

math is scrutinised. As well as delving into the Princess's relationship with Dodi, the authors pay particular attention to the medical treatment she received, and the systems on that night, from the individual doctors involved, says Sanction. He chooses his words with care, but makes no attempt to conceal his outrage.

If the French medical establishment is likely to react angrily, it will be equally unhappy at the authors' criticism of French medical secrecy. Under French law, it is illegal for magistrates to release information during an investigation, which has not prevented investigators in the case from doing so — occasionally officially, more often unofficially, and never fully.

Sources rarely go on record, and obtaining an official confirmation or denial of the most trivial detail has often proved impossible.

"You get a bit here, a bit there. Ultimately it's a way of manipulating the news," says Sanction.

No car journey in history, with the possible exception of JFK's last ride in Dallas, has been subjected to closer analysis than the passage of the Mercedes carrying the Princess, Dodi Fayed, their bodyguard Trevor Kase Jones, and chauffeur from the rear entrance of the Paris Ritz to the riverside underpass. Citing the expertise of an automotive engineer, the authors believe that as the heavy car roared at high speed down the incline into the tunnel, Henri Paul began losing control because of a "trampoline or ski-jump effect" in which the car either left the road completely or substantially lost traction.

A glancing collision with the mysterious white Fiat Uno apparently followed, after which Paul regained some control of the car before the final collision with the thirteenth pillar in the underpass.

The two writers manoeuvre chunks of baguette around as they outline the probable trajectory of the car, moment by moment, skid mark by skid mark, a scenario clearly rehearsed many times.

The subsequent disappearance of the Fiat Uno, despite a huge police search, remains one of the key unsolved mysteries, and MacLeod and Sanction say there is now little hope of tracing the car, which they believe must have been "sold, abandoned abroad or destroyed".

While the missing Fiat or another car may have played a part in the accident, the authors conclude, in common with the police investigators, that as yet "no direct causal link" can be made between the accident and the photographers pursuing the Mercedes, who are still under investigation. There remains, however, the troubling issue of a motorcycle, apparently seen by three or four witnesses at the scene, whose driver has never been identified.

The role of Henri Paul, the deputy security director of the Ritz who was found to be three times over the legal alcohol limit for driving, is plainly central to the case, but recent suggestions that the car's airbags may have inflated before the final impact, have further complicated the case.

Paul was known to be a depressive but also a "bon viveur" — his bloodstream



The sudden and violent death of Diana, Princess of Wales, unleashed an avalanche of news

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contained traces of antidepressants as well as the equivalent of one and a half bottles of wine. He was seen drinking at the bar of the Ritz before taking the wheel of the Mercedes, but his precise whereabouts in the hours before the accident have never been established. The most likely explanation is that he was drinking alone, in his flat, before he was summoned to the Ritz.

The authors reject rumours that evidence has been suppressed because Paul had been boozing with police buddies that night. They are also dismissive of a video showing a white car, not a Fiat Uno, at the front of the Ritz "A red herring," says Sanction.

The writers have, however, discovered yet another fishy aspect to Paul's post-mortem examination, which shows an abnormally high level of carbon monoxide in his bloodstream. In smaller amounts the gas can affect concentration, and the tests raise the possibility that the car had been tampered with," Sanction says.

Piecing together the last moments of Diana's life required rapid immersion in the minutiae of forensic science — motor engineering, medicine and law, but also a foray into human psychology.

MacLeod's Middle East contacts enabled him to dig deeply into the background of the Al Fayed family, and the portrait that emerges of Dodi is of an only child from a sheltered upbringing, somewhat paranoid, who had perhaps come to see the security personnel that surrounded him as a form of "surrogate family".

"There were other trained chauffeurs at the Ritz that night. Dodi wanted Henri Paul," notes MacLeod. "Paul was not a man whose orders were questioned, least of all by an obedient, star-struck individual such as Paul."

From one perspective the death of Diana was an accident, horrendous and avoidable, yet finally unexceptional had it not been for the people involved. But as *Death of a Princess* shows, it was also much more: a series of interlocking stories and lives, celebrated and humble; of human error and hubris; of questions unanswered and perhaps unanswerable.

As Sanction puts it: "We found ourselves telling a gripping tale, a love story, a crime story and a tragedy."

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PEN is 'the only international writers' organisation. It has 130 centres in 100 countries. It promotes intellectual co-operation and freedom of speech.' Thus did Rachel Billington, the current president, introduce *In Praise of Freedom*, last week's tribute to writers in prison. Eighteen writers read works. Some lists are worth recording. This is one of them.

Doris Lessing read from *The True Prison* by Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian poet executed in 1995. Kunle Ajibade, another Nigerian sentenced to life imprisonment the same year, wrote a letter to the writer Anne Sebba (who was in the audience). Read by Graham Swift, the letter contained the sentence: "It is very heartening to know that people like you are fighting for our release." Swift also read from the Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet, who died in 1963 having been imprisoned on spurious charges many times. Hikmet wrote, movingly: "Inside it is bad to think of roses and gardens. It is good to think of mountains and the sea."

## Forging links with the writers in chains

The courage displayed by writers imprisoned and often tortured was quite remarkable. The most harrowing reading was by Rose Tremain from the executions witnessed by Shahmush Parsipur, the Iranian novelist imprisoned and now exiled. Her description of prisoners of both sexes having their feet whipped when they went for this torture so that their swollen feet could fit in afterwards was practically unbearable.

Israel Zangwill's essay on the suffragette allowed Margaret Drabble to move the argument to this country and, in a funny account, still show how indivisible freedom of expression is, whether in a brutal dictatorship or in a paternalistic oligarchy. Still on home turf I read *Toussaint L'Ouverture*, Wordsworth's sonnet to the Haitian freed slave who re-

belled and brought liberty and organisation to black communities in the Caribbean, before being betrayed into Napoleon's grip, shipped to France and martyred. The sonnet ends with the lines: "Thy friends are exultations, agonies/and love, and man's unconquerable mind."

David Lodge's extract from his own *Changing Places* took us to the freedoms on offer in the 1960s on America's West Coast, and then Harold Pinter delivered the most dramatic reading of the evening from *A Bright Shining Hell 1995*, by Mumia Abu-Jamal who, despite serious questions concerning the conduct of his trial for murder, has spent the past 15 years on Pennsylvania's death row.

Andrew Motion had taken the trouble to compose a new poem for the occasion. Called *A Free Man*, it described, as he said, the freedom



to live. The sooner one can pore over it in print the better. After the interval Ian McEwan read from *The Courage to Stand Alone* by Wei Jingsheng, who was broken by torture and brutality by

the Chinese for his championing of reform. McEwan's reading out of the ludicrous charges brought against him showed starkly the impotence of truth under repression.

Anne Frank's diary can be humorous — a fact I had not fully appreciated until Bernice Rubens's brilliant selection of a passage in which Anne "advertised" her anxieties, as if it were an hotel.

For me, Antonia Fraser's reading of Chidiock Tichbourne's lament was the highlight. It led me again to wonder how this poem written in 1586 by a 20-year-old on the eve of his execution for plotting to free Mary Queen of Scots could possibly be his only poem. As far as I know there are no others. Here are the opening lines: "My Frame of Youth is but a frost of cares/My crop of corn is but a field of

tares/And all my good is but vain hope of gain/My life is fled and yet I saw no sun/ And now I live and now my life is done."

After that we needed the shy observation of Michael Holroyd from his biography of Bernard Shaw on the great Irishman's mad or mischievous attitude on meeting Stalin. This was echoed by the next reader, Ruth Fainlight, who read *The Stalin Epigram* by Osip Mandelstam. She also read from a short, untitled poem-Mandelstam wrote in 1935, while in internal exile — "You gave me my shoe size on Earth with bars around it". The Urdu poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, who was imprisoned three times in all, often in solitary confinement, was also featured, as was one of her own poems.

Hanif Kureishi brought us back

home with a passage from *The Buddha of Suburbia*, which had the best punchline of the evening. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, the Kenyan writer who wrote in English and in his native Gikuyu, had an extract from his *Writing on Toilet Paper* wonderfully delivered by Diran Adebayo. Like many others, Thiong'o was detained without charge because of something he had written.

Moris Farhi, who had steered the readings, then read a little from Salman Rushdie's lecture *Is Nothing Sacred?*, which begins with the words "I grew up kissing with the words". Rushdie himself then took the platform. On St Valentine's Day it will be ten years that he has lived under the fatwa. It was fitting and ironic that, in the presence of the men who have guarded him so effectively for those ten years, he should read a passage in praise of free thought and unlimited voices, a passage which concluded and celebrated an evening which had listed and spoken for the imprisoned.

## And the winner is ... Corporate Spice

Fantasise about what the office of a pop grande dame might look like, and you won't fall far short of Paul Conroy's little cubbyhole. The president of Virgin Records sprawls on a sofa the size of a limousine in an office the size of a tennis court in a building with all the understated ambience of a sheikh's palace. "We think of this place as a kind of college campus," says the president, with a lofty wave out of his penthouse window at Virgin's West London headquarters. "And when I have to discipline people, I suppose I think of myself as the college dean."

Yes, it's just like Balliol. The man who stands in *loco parentis* to the Spice Girls proudly surrounds himself with trophies of his fieldwork. Cutouts of Ginger, Posh, Baby and the rest — also only two-dimensional — circle his desk. A surfboard from *SpiceWorld* The Movie stands against the wall. If you didn't know that Conroy thinks the Spice Girls are "the true phenomenon of our times", the decor might just give you a clue.

And wherever visitors may lift their gaze, overhead televisions offer an unceasing panorama of Virgin sounds and Virgin images. You feel you have reached the very hub of the all-conquering, £2 billion British record business.

And in a sense you have. For this year Conroy is also the chairman of the Brit Awards. Tonight at the London Arena in Docklands he presides over a ceremony which, according to taste, is either the coolest parade of talent that the coolest music industry in the world can summon, or a dreary and predictable shop

**POP:** Will tonight's Brit Awards celebrate 'Cool Britannia', or the power of big record labels? **Richard Morrison** meets the man in charge

window for the big record labels", as Jonathan King scathingly described it last year.

Of course, having helped to stage the Brits in the early 1990s and then quit "in disgust", King is not the most objective expert on this subject. And the charge of predictability does seem harsh. After all, the one thing that everybody remembers about the Brits are their unscripted moments of pure anarchy. Recall the gloriously sculpted Samantha Fox spinning from verbal disaster to cerebral catastrophe in a hopeless *faux pas de deux* with a deranged Autocue in 1989. Or, in 1996, the ebullient Jarvis Cocker invading a truly nauseating Michael Jackson routine and dropping his trousers in eloquent protest.

Or, last year, the Spice Girls' feisty Geri literally busting out of a Union Jack dress that was clearly unequal to its sartorial assignment. No wonder that ten million people watched the 1997 Brits, the highest audience for any music programme on British television last year.

Nevertheless, isn't the show just a way of flogging yet more "product" by artists who are

already rich and famous? In short, isn't it now a bit of an industry carve-up and a bore? Conroy bristles at such heresy. "The voting panel is 600 strong now, and it extends right across the industry," he says. "And this year some of the artists are not well known. You may have heard of Shola Ama or Finley Quaye, but to a peak-time ITV audience they are going to be very new figures."

Conroy lowers his voice conspiratorially, as if not to shock the potted plants. "To some people, in fact, they might even seem more like Mercury Music Prize artists."

Hey, what a radical dude. But even Conroy's own pop stars slag off the Brits, don't they? "Well," says the president, carefully weighing his words, "you're either on the bus, or you're off the bus."

He pauses to allow this profound thought to sink in. "I have artists," he continues, "who find the jockeying for position at award shows very hard to swallow. I can respect their views. But the fact is, the pop business is intensely competitive. The charts are always there; the race is always on."

But doesn't a veteran record company man like Conroy (he rose through Stiff, Warners and Chrysalis before being summoned to run Virgin when EMI bought it in 1992) get annoyed when stropky pop stars bad-mouth the very companies that nurtured and enriched them?

"I don't think 'annoyed' is the right word," Conroy says benignly. "I suppose I've grown used to it. When kids come in here to sign record deals I always say to them: 'It's great now, and we'll open the

champagne, but you are soon going to hate me. I'm going to make you get up early every morning, and organise every hour of your day, and make you tour constantly.' I suppose it's because the artists are out on the road all the time that they start to think that record company bosses are sitting in an office having it easy."

And are they? Conroy stretches on his sofa and surveys his plush domain. "I can tell you, it's pretty stressful. I've been in this business since 1971, and I think of my relationship with my artists as a marriage. We share the ups and downs. We live and breathe the charts together. I get as pissed off as they do when their records go down."

So he must have been devastated last year, when the Spice Girls were hit by the kind of backlash specially reserved for those daft and vain enough to imprint their own image on every bag of crisps in the land. So vitriolic was the response that at one point the Spice Girls were being cited by business journalists as the prime reason for EMI's falling share price.

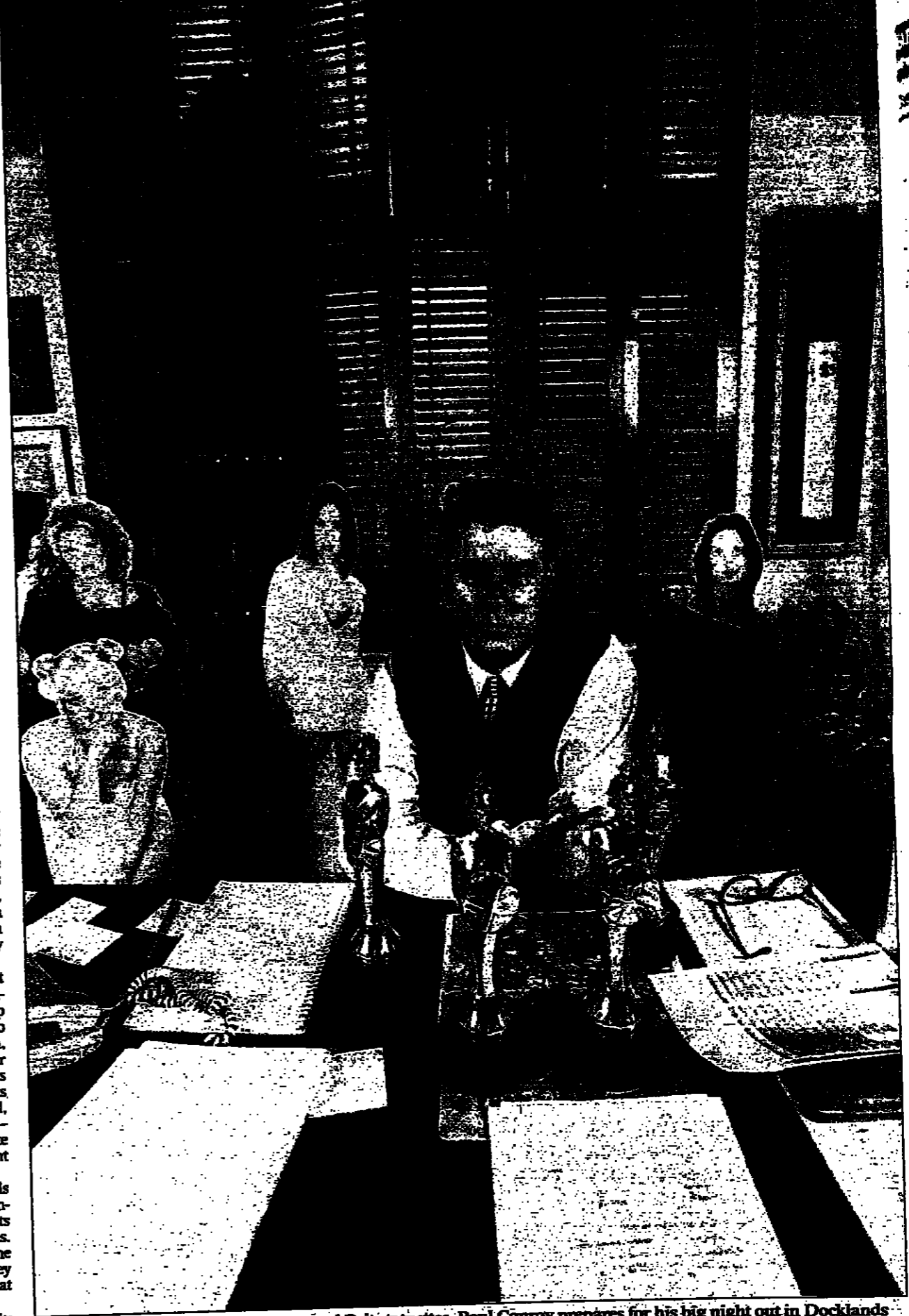
"I felt ashamed," Conroy says sadly. "The girls make great records. They work very hard. They don't deserve the gibes. But unfortunately that's what the press do. Frankly, I'm surprised the backlash didn't come sooner. But when it did come, it nearly broke my heart."

A touching thought. But isn't Conroy being a bit distinguished here? Today's pop industry is surely too big, too structured, too profit-driven for there to be any room for sentiment. What ITV viewers will see celebrated at the Brits is not rock'n'roll in the wild, maverick sense of the Sixties — but the apotheosis of corporate control. Or does the president think otherwise?

"You're right that big labels today don't have the independence of, say, Island in its early days," Conroy concedes. "But for me, this is still the music business, not the money business. The songs are what excite me, not the profits."

● A recording of tonight's Brits will be shown tomorrow (ITV, 8pm)

**‘This business is still about music, not money’**



Surrounded by Spice Girl cutouts and Brit statuettes, Paul Conroy prepares for his big night out in Docklands

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## The beat goes on and on and on

SOMEWHERE between a touring showcase of cutting edge electronic music and a loose alliance of widely diverse record labels, the first Vapour event drew 3,000 revellers to a ramshackle riverside warehouse on Saturday night. On paper there would appear to be little kinship between London labels Heavenly and Wall of Sound, both pioneers of the fashionable "big beat" sound, and their more purely electronic provincial cousins

Warp and Soma. But even so, the chemistry worked well. The event's hedonistic epicentre was the hall commanded by Heavenly, the Soho-based label best known for launching the Chemical Brothers. Although rumours of a special guest appearance by the duo proved groundless, at least one of them was present to lend moral support to labelmates Richard Fearless and Jon Carter. Both delivered rapturously received DJ sets which mixed booming beats with sampled blasts of rock guitar, film soundtracks and hip hop.

While the Heavenly set drew on classic rock and vintage rap for inspiration, an even earlier pop era was evoked by the Wall of Sound headline act, Propellerheads. If it wasn't for their DJ turntables and sparing use of techno beats, this Bath-based duo could almost have been a 1940s dancehall band with

respected experimental label Warp staged a futuristic carnival of sonic abstraction from a raised platform in the centre of their own mid-sized hall.

Among the label's more notable electronic heavyweights were Plaid, a deliberately faceless duo best known outside dance circles for their work with Björk, and Autentik, whose austere robotic polyrhythms fizzed and crackled like static electricity. There then followed a three-hour DJ set by the label's star signing, the Aphex Twin, otherwise known as Cornish techno extremist Richard James. Although he has been known to clear rooms by amplifying the sound of food mixers and sandpaper, James played a relatively straight set, with just a few party favourites played backwards for good measure.

But tellingly, perhaps, it was the rooms dedicated to more purist techno which remained active long after the beery rock'n'roll hordes began drifting home. Glasgow's Soma label kept the smallest room busy right up until dawn with a relentless diet of underground dance tunes for a hardcore rave crowd. Meanwhile, Sheffield's

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Mamet's voyage of truth

This short play could just be an exercise for Creative Writing 101, for David Mamet penned it after taking a college-vac job on a cargo boat plying the Great Lakes...

THEATRE

play itself comes in brusque scenes, all having that casual, improvised feel you associate with Mamet.

Like O'Neill, who spent much of his youth working on ships, Mamet uses these men's journey to suggest their rootlessness, aimlessness and vulnerability; but he does so less sentimentally, more harshly.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Janis Kelly (Romilda, seated) and Sarah Connolly (Xerxes) in a fine ENO production that celebrates "Handel's wit, sensibility and sheer sophistication"

Still as fresh as paint

Whatever else Chris Smith's doty idea of bundling all London's dance and opera companies into Covent Garden has achieved, it has galvanised ENO audiences: the Coliseum was packed for this fourth revival of Xerxes.

ter in any way removed from everyday experience. Just when, after 13 years, Nicholas Hytner's production should according to the rules be starting to look tired, it has come up as fresh as paint under the expert guidance of Emma Jenkins, its status as a benchmark in Handel production hearteningly reaffirmed.

Xerxes Coliseum

finable stylishness and warmth as to sweep all doubts aside. In brand-X Handel the singers traditionally convey the "affect", or meaning, of the arias; with every member of the orchestra doing their bit as well, the "affect" is overwhelming.

one number everyone knows? But with her beautifully warm tone and impressive technique, she gained assurance with each succeeding aria and by the end was singing like a dream.

equally musical, always elegant Janis Kelly made a signal success of her first Romilda. And Susan Gritton was both a delicious and a dangerous mix as her sister Atalanta.

RODNEY MILNES

Music like this has no need of propping up

stage movement of ensemble and chorus. What's to come, it seems, is still unsure. So far, so good. And Nicholas McGegan's musical direction is in perfect tune with the great Mozartian heartbeat behind it all.

Costume tattle Glasgow

willful accomplice, he has been unable to resist overloading the stage and the eye. Whereas the first act begins to fall flat, the second reveals a mirror which opens to reveal a little pool, and a cornucopia of wedding presents, from washing machines to microwaves - with the wedding guests to go with them.

had begun to set up, and which is embodied so nicely in the cynical detachment of Donald Maxwell's elegantly sung Don Alfonso. But this production is so strong musically that it would take more than mere silliness to weaken it beyond redemption.

HILARY FINCH

Creation fit for angels

Haydn's Masses are not heard that often in the concert hall, so the ongoing Barbian series is a real treat, especially with performances as good as those on offer from the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists.

CONCERT Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner Barbian

extraordinary fluency is gilded with invention. One of the most striking passages in this Mass occurs at the "Et incarnatus est", where a fluttering organ obbligato pervades the orchestral texture to symbolise the reference to the Holy Spirit at this point.

One of Gardiner's strengths, both in the Mass and in his account of Mozart's Jupiter Symphony in the first half of the programme, is his surefooted feel for the underlying harmonic structure, so effectively underpinned by the brass in the symphony and by the choir in the Mass with its rich, dappled effect created by constant shifts from major to minor: clouds and silver linings come to mind.

There was some fine playing, too, from the EBS, although it needed the first movement of the Jupiter to warm up. While it is the brilliance of the fugal finale that has attracted most comment from Mozart's day on, this opening movement is no less extraordinary for the way in which a jaunty little operatic theme is developed into a large symphonic structure that foreshadows Beethoven.

TESS KNIGHTON

This week in THE TIMES



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Can Sleeper recover from recent setbacks? The new tour kicks off in Glasgow GIG: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday



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# Farewell to the Tories' nearly man

Michael Portillo on the enduring political legacy of Enoch Powell

Enoch Powell left the Conservative Party in 1974. In the first election that year, he did not stand for Parliament, and effectively urged people to vote Labour. In the second, he re-entered Parliament as an Ulster Unionist. There was never a rapprochement with the Tory party, though his wife Pam rejoined it on May 2, 1997.

It may seem strange, then, after Enoch's death, to consider his impact on a party he left 24 years ago. But as Powell said: "I was born a Tory, I am a Tory, and shall die a Tory."

In the ten years after the Tory defeat in 1964, Powell was bent on rescuing the Tories from the heresies into which they had fallen: corporatism, prices and incomes policies, and a tolerance of inflation. He was determined to bring them to embrace monetarism, free-market economics, privatisation and a floating currency.

As a member of the Shadow Cabinet between 1964 and 1966 he made a series of speeches, purportedly attacking the Labour Government's economic policies, but in fact designed to alter the terms of the debate within his own party. As early as 1967, Iain Macleod was writing about something called "Powellism".

Powell used his public speeches, part treatise, part sermon, part call to arms, to spread new ideas and to become better known. He admitted that he would include at least "one startling assertion in every speech in order to attract enough attention and give myself a powerhouse within the Conservative Party", believing that if he kept that up Heath could not sack him.

He miscalculated, of course. His "rivers of blood" speech of April 1968, warning of the cataclysmic effect of immigration, contained at least one startling assertion too many and Heath fired him without ceremony. The speech made Enoch a household name, and gave him a mass following. But it also made him a pariah, and the effect on Powellism was counterproductive.

As Mrs Thatcher observed, it then became more difficult to agree with anything that Powell said. Utley commented that Powell had found it difficult to provide an emotive appeal with his speeches on the economy, and had achieved the greatest response on one of the less important of his convictions.

Powell relied almost exclusively on his speeches to bring him support. He was utterly unclubbable, incapable of stroking the egos of lesser men, who are to be found in profusion in the House of Commons. He retained what John Biffen described as "intellectual austerity". After "rivers of blood", Powell was assured of huge atten-

tion, and during elections his movements were followed as closely as the party leaders'. He is a significant figure in Conservative history, not least because he was probably responsible through his speeches for winning the election of 1970, and losing that of February 1974. As Powell said, referring to Heath: "I put him in and I took him out."

In 1970, Powell probably expected the Tories to lose, and Heath's victory "sealed my exit". Perhaps his campaign speeches were designed to launch a leadership bid after Heath's defeat, although it is far from clear that Powell had enough support among MPs to win.

Even if he had snookered himself in 1970 he could console himself that Powellite economics was writ large in the Conservative manifesto, which rejected utterly compulsory wage control. But as the Heath Government subsequently wrestled with inflation and rising wages, it resorted to a statutory policy. Powell asked Heath whether he had taken leave of his senses.

But at the time, perhaps because Powellism had become dangerous to be associated with, few Conservatives shared his sense of shock at what he regarded as a cynical U-turn. Most could not understand that it made it impossible for him to stand at the election as a Conservative.

He supported Labour because they were apparently anti-EEC, and promised to renegotiate our terms of entry and hold a referendum. Powell was appalled that the Conservative Government had not only joined the EEC, but committed itself to economic and monetary union by 1980. His party, he said, had become a stranger to him.

By supporting Labour in 1974, Powell lost much of his influence on the Tory party, and, for example, was unable in the 1975 referendum campaign to bring in the Conservative vote for the "noes". But with the Tories defeated, Mrs Thatcher took up the banner of the free market, and with Powell out of the party, it was safe to do so. During the 1980s the "wets" came to accept the new emphasis on controlling the supply of money, restraining public spending and privatisation. During the 1990s all that was taken on board by the Labour Party too.

Powell was not the only exponent of those policies but he was the most effective. His influence must be regarded as substantial. Perhaps had it not been for his "rivers of blood" speech, which cast him out of the political establishment, Powellite economics might have been applied a decade earlier, and he might have enjoyed their success.

As for the issue of Britain and the European Union, every argument worth making was made by Powell in speeches a quarter of a century ago. Perhaps those arguments, taken up again in the years ahead, will yet prove to be his most enduring legacy.

## Spin-doctors are best ignored — until their posturing starts to do positive harm to their masters

As a journalist, I try to keep spin-doctors in proportion: I view them rather as Læwenhook, the pioneer of the microscope, might have fiddled with his lenses to bring some strange bug into focus. I do not think one ought actually to speak to spin-doctors, except occasionally to take a cup of tea with them on the way into their minister's office. On those occasions they usually prove to be obsequious enough, hoping that a nice cup of tea will dispose one to accept whatever line the minister, or Prime Minister, wishes to peddle.

My reluctance to talk to them is based on a number of journalistic principles. The first, which has been attributed to that excellent war correspondent Winston Churchill, is: "Always speak to the man in charge." In the happy days when Margaret Thatcher was in Downing Street, one wanted to know what she thought, and not what the surly Yorkshireman in the outer office wished one to think that she thought. I got through 11 years of her prime ministership without, so far as I can remember, even passing the time of day with Sir Bernard, though I have nothing against him. I felt that I could always read what he had to say in other people's newspapers. Sometimes he would be described as "an official spokesman", sometimes as "friends of the Prime Minister" — and sometimes simply as "Downing Street", as in the phrase "Downing Street believes..."

My second reason for not talking to spin-doctors is that they are not there to provide information, but to put their master's slant on information. It is not fair to spin-doctors to say that they often lie, my own experience has been that when a brazen lie is needed, it usually has to be uttered by the principal. It is no good the spokesman saying that the Prime Minister did not collude with the Israelis over the invasion of Egypt; the Prime

# Too much spin on a Labour pitch

Minister has to say it himself to Parliament, and the Foreign Secretary has to back him up. I have been lied to by ministers and Prime Ministers, and have heard Presidents of the United States lie on television. Such lies are heroic work, not mere underlings.

Spin-doctors are not primarily in the business of lies, but of half-truths. They are paid to put a good appearance on things for their masters, and a bad appearance on things for their masters' enemies, the most dangerous of whom may well be found in his or her own party. They manage some journalists by giving them little pieces of inside information, which may or may not be correct. Harold Wilson, who did a lot of his own spin-doctoring, kept some lobby correspondents on his side by giving them the exclusives that their Editors were pressing them to obtain. On one occasion, the lobby correspondent of the Daily Mail found that his exclusive had blown up in his face. It was no sooner printed than it was convincingly denied. He made the mistake of reproaching the Prime Minister for having misled him. Wilson simply replied: "Well, it was a scoop, wasn't it?"

Apart from offering mini-scoops as mini-bribes, the spin-doctors sometimes behave like heaves, as though they had been trained in the Kray brothers' charm school. There seems to have been a remarkable incident of this last week. The Prime Minister

has a spin-doctor in Downing Street; this is not Peter Mandelson, who is a sort of field marshal in the Labour spin-doctoring army, but a local chief of staff. He usually prefers to be described in anonymous terms, though people tell me that he is in fact a C...J, a member of the great Pro-Hanover clan of West Scotland, so widely resented by other Scots for their conduct in 1745.

On this occasion he was outraged that John Sergeant, the meticulous political correspondent of the BBC,

that the President and the Prime Minister had better things to think of, such as Iraq. If spin-doctors were to be believed, their masters never consider issues of mere mundane politics, but spend their time on more statesmanlike concerns.

Downing Street went on to attack the BBC. He said it was now a "downmarket, dumbed-down, over-stuffed, over-bureaucratic, ridiculous organisation". I have myself some sympathy with the view that the BBC is "over-stuffed" and "over-bureaucratic", since I spent five years of my life as its vice-chairman fighting that bureaucracy, and lost. The other charges sound merely like so much lie-fi-to-tum; by international or even national television standards the BBC is not "downmarket", "dumbed-down", let alone "ridiculous".

In any case, Mr Sergeant's question, asked at the official pre-Washington briefing, was legitimate. The President has been the subject of scandalous assertions; these assertions are being investigated; Tony Blair was certain to be asked about them by the Washington press corps; they were bound to be embarrassing. Downing Street seems to think that it is the business of journalists, like that of Labour backbenchers, to ask only lapdog questions of the Prime Minister. That indeed, to coin a phrase, is a "dumbed-down, ridiculous" attitude for Downing Street to adopt.

Years ago, when Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, he took this line

with the press over the D-notices affair. I imagine that our modern Downing Street was still then only a child, and will not remember what happened. All the editors were called into the Cabinet Room and given a wiggling by the Prime Minister. We were not, as I remember, told that we were "dumbed-down", because that phrase had not yet been coined; but we were told that we were all down-market and irresponsible. David Astor, then Editor of The Observer, which has always been rather a puffed newspaper, did not like it at all, and left Downing Street looking as though Wilson had given him a lemon to suck. That interview soured the Wilson Government's relations with the press. It may be wrong of us, but we do not take well to being bullied by silly people for silly reasons.

Downing Street has a colleague whom we may call Treasury. Downing Street seems to be making its business to threaten journalists who do not accept the spin he wishes to spin. Nothing could be better calculated to harm the Government, except what Treasury does. Treasury is said to go into his local pub and tell friendly journalists what the Government's economic policy is. The only drawback is that the Prime Minister and Cabinet have not been consulted, so Treasury's policy is liable to be reversed. Treasury also talks up the Chancellor, which is his business, and talks down the Prime Minister, which is not. Those who do meet them say that Downing Street and Treasury do not like each other, but as I would not recognise them if I met them in Whitehall, I cannot vouch for the truth of that. What seems clear is that Labour's spin-doctors are now spinning out of control and are likely to do the Government's media relations much more harm than good.

William Rees-Mogg

had had the impudence to ask a question which this spokesman did not wish to answer. The spokesman, let us just call him "Downing Street", rebuked Mr Sergeant for asking whether Mr Blair would be embarrassed by being questioned about the Monica Lewinsky scandal. We all know, from having seen him on television, that Tony Blair was so questioned, and was embarrassed, as anyone might have been. Downing Street said the accusations against the President were "irrelevant", which is not quite the same thing as their being embarrassing, and argued, as a spin-doctor would argue,

# Heart to heart in Washington

Blair's love affair with Clinton politics is deepening, says Peter Riddell



Tony Blair is still learning how to be a successful Prime Minister — and one of the people he has learnt most from is President Bill Clinton. His advice is reflected in a review of government strategy that Mr Blair is now starting to unveil.

An intriguing aspect of reporting Mr Blair's four-day trip to Washington was to see, and later to hear, his response to such a consummate politician as President Clinton. The television image at Friday's White House news conference of Mr Blair as the nervous younger brother loyally supporting his embattled elder brother was misleading. The relationship is more one of two committed professionals admiring each other's skills and sharing experiences.

Mr Blair likes, and trusts, Mr Clinton. He not only regards him as thoughtful and intellectually impressive but also believes he has a stronger record than is often appreciated here. So his support for the President was sincere. But Mr Blair is not naive. He decided before the trip that any reference to his well-known views on the family would be presented as criticism of Mr Clinton. So he brushed aside questions about the Lewinsky affair. He also believed that a display of unity was vital at this stage of the Iraq crisis.

The Blair camp calculated that Mr Clinton would be grateful for such a pledge of support and would be helpful on other issues, particularly Northern Ireland. Mr Clinton will press all parties, including Sinn Fein, to agree a settlement by May, when the President hopes to visit Northern Ireland. Moreover, the White House will warn the IRA that all contacts

and help will cease if there is a return to violence. Mr Blair's advisers believe that the gains from backing Mr Clinton outweigh the risks of being tarnished by a scandal-ridden President.

The Prime Minister has, however, to be careful about identifying too closely with a second-term President who will have left office by January 2001. Mr Blair did, nevertheless, let it be known that he had spent a lot of time with Vice-President Al Gore, whose policy grasp impressed him, and whom he has invited to make a big speech in Britain. The Prime Minister also believes his trip, and the extensive television and press coverage he received, helped to establish his identity directly with the American people.

President Clinton was at times both distracted and tired — though he intervened in an abstract discussion

at the policy seminar on Friday to make astute political points. The seminar explored both the extent of a common Centre-Left agenda — to be developed further at a conference in London in May — and specific issues such as job training and social exclusion.

Mr Blair is fascinated by Mr Clinton's views on political strategy. Last May, the two left a London restaurant to be greeted by people on the streets and leaning out of windows clapping and cheering. The President turned to the Prime Minister and said: "I'll bet that many of those people had never voted Labour before May 1. Don't do what I did over my first two years, and ignore them. Never stop telling people what you are doing and why you are doing

it. You must not stop communicating with voters."

Learning from the early Clinton errors, Mr Blair stresses the importance of establishing a clear "narrative" about the Government's long-term programme to withstand short-term turbulence. This is reflected in his over-familiar refrain about the "big picture". Since Christmas he has become worried that voters may lose faith because they do not see positive results, "the post-euphoria, pre-delivery stage". The Government, therefore, needs to give warning more explicitly that it will take time to do things and there will be some pain in the short term. Welfare reform and the comprehensive spending review will inevitably involve some sacrifices, while improving the NHS and schools cannot happen overnight. Hence, the new rhetoric about "two tough years".

But the reassessment goes further. Mr Blair is strengthening the central machinery of Government after the arrival of Sir Richard Wilson as Cabinet Secretary (by linking the Cabinet Office more closely with the Downing Street Policy Unit). Partially acknowledging earlier criticisms, Mr Blair has sought to bring in ministerial colleagues more and the weekly Cabinet meetings now last longer.

Mr Blair's advisers are also worried that ministers, with a few exceptions such as David Blunkett, are developing "departmental" and not conveying the Government's overall strategy. Mr Blair is therefore considering whether to appoint a Cabinet minister with no departmental responsibilities to speak for the Government as a whole and to maintain links with the Labour Party. This would be akin to the role of the Conservative chairman when the party is in office, though this has often not worked well: either the chairman is too junior to command authority, or he is not liked by colleagues.

The balance of trust and respect does not produce a long list of candidates. Peter Mandelson has the necessary political shrewdness and is respected, but he probably has too many enemies. Apart from the top five ministers, only Alistair Darling and Mo Mowlam look possibilities within the current Cabinet, and would likely new Cabinet entrants such as Stephen Byers and Alan Millar have sufficient authority?

Mr Blair is also developing a cadre of junior and middle-ranking ministers to help to present the Government's case. It is no coincidence that Mr Milburn and Helen Liddell were chosen to go to Washington.

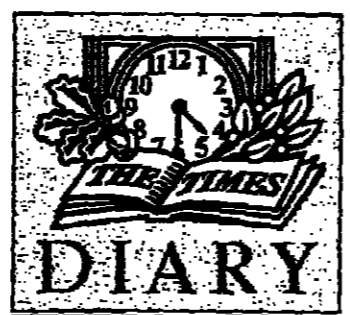
Mr Blair gives the clear impression in conversation of learning from recent troubles. His conclusion — reinforced by his talks with President Clinton — is not that he should adjust his policies, but that he should strengthen his political operation. After all, as Mr Blair always says in response to criticisms of Mr Clinton, he did win re-election.

# Tie died

IN A dash between old and new tastes, Aliai Forte, Sir Rocco's other half, has been rebuffed in an attempt to make her mark on Britcocking. Lady Forte, whose family fortunes derived from selling such delicacies as gammon steak with breaded pineapple slices, had donated a collection of zany ties in picture frames to brighten up the newest eatery to be opened by Jean-Cristophe Novelli. But the chef and restaurateur, who symbolises the new cooking of Cool Britannia, has dumped the decorations unceremoniously in a stairwell. Until now, Lady F, the daughter of an Italian neurologist, had rather fancied herself as something of an expert on interior design. So when Novelli, a competitor to Marco Pierre White, took over new premises in West London jointly owned by Sir Rocco, it seemed natural that her ladyship might make some suggestions.



No thanks: Novelli, Aliai. Christophe Novelli, 51. "Initially the ties were in the main restaurant, a big sauceman in the kitchen tells me. "But everyone hated them. We wanted to get rid of them altogether, but because of the connection with the landlord they were relegated to the staircase." I hope Aliai's contributions to Sir Rocco's new hotel business do not prove to be equally unpopular.



which are proud of their philistine attitude to women," writes the confidante in this month's issue of *Golf Monthly*. "I have to say, in 17 years as a golfer I'd be hard put to remember ever being held up by lady players."

Most clubs allow women to join but then deny them their democratic right to have any say in day-to-day affairs, says Carrot. "It won't be long now before women members start chaining themselves to the ball cleaners, or throwing themselves in front of buggies." I wonder if he can feel a sketch coming on.

INTERNAL diplomacy is a skill yet to be honed by the Liberal Democrat MP, Bob Russell. A smitten constituent recently gave him a present of 44 bags of mints. Problem. There are 45 other Lib-Dem MPs. Russell gave a bag to all but the leader, Paddy Ashdown.

Don't call us I KNOW industrial relations were somewhat wobbly and the Soviet threat remained very real in the 1970s, but did Britain really need a leader at the time to rescue us from the Red onslaught? Sir Oswald

Mosley certainly thought so. Ivo Mosley, one of the Fascist leader's grandsons, recalls in this week's *Harpers & Queen* attending the old man's 80th birthday in 1976 and asking what he was up to.

"I'm waiting for the call," replied Mosley Sr, who, after the abrupt failure of his political career, had left Britain for exile in France many years before. "Britain is in trouble. Any minute they will summon me to be their leader." So now we know: Sir Oswald's lack of political

ness remained with him until his dying days.

A sign of how adept Her Majesty is at becoming adept at dealing with the media: Mark Bolland, the courier employed as a spinocrat at St James's Palace, has become such a fixture that he has been given the nickname Lip Gloss.



Drew: that'll do nicely. VEGETABLES are the latest to win the fluctuating affections of Drew Barrymore, the actress who played a precocious brat in ET. "I have become an animalist, which means I believe everything has a soul," says Miss Barrymore. The former drug addict, to be Dorothy in the remake of The Wizard of Oz, has learnt to respect meat and vegetables. She will now have to survive on a diet of rice and pulses. "I now worship lettuce leaves."

JASPER GERARD

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DERSTIA  
CIVIC  
ELEMENTA  
See for helping boy





UNDERSTANDING ENOCH

The wisdom and flaws in Powell's legacy

"Not understanding Enoch," Michael Foot once remarked, "has been a condition of intelligent parliamentarians since he was first elected."

but like an orchid in a hothouse, too rarefied to survive in the real world. Powell's attachment to liberal economics and limited government was almost mystical.

CIVICS LESSON

Blair needs powerful mayors to revive local government

It was charitable in content and sympathetic in tone, but Tony Blair had a tough message for the Labour local government conference.

institutional revival through elected mayors. Mr Blair's interest and objectives are admirable. It is less clear that his Government will produce policies that match his rhetoric.

ELEMENTARY, SAYS HOLMES

The case for helping boys do better at the first of the Three Rs

I see from my notebook that it was on Monday morning on February 9, 1998, that I learnt that Sherlock Holmes has been selected to teach the schoolboys of the United Kingdom to read.

as if you worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid. "But Holmes," I cried, "Surely the aspiration of encouraging English boys to read is noble? It is an outrage that the young women of England should be so much better at reading than their brothers."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

US and UK stance on bombing Iraq

From Lord Kennet and Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, The legitimacy of a pre-emptive military attack on Iraq, based on existing UN resolutions, is far from clear.

Irvine's call for curbs on the press

From the President of the Guild of Editors

Sir, We are told (reports and leading article, February 6) that the Lord Chancellor has been slapped down by the Prime Minister and other colleagues for, in effect, proposing censorship of the press.

This is central to the tougher, revised code of practice policed by the Press Complaints Commission. Lord Irvine of Lairg has called for still stricter rules (report, February 5) before the commission has had an opportunity to consider any complaints under the new code.

From Mr Ken Topley

Sir, It is our not-nutability that enables the media to bring down politicians. The higher the standards we demand of them, the easier they are to topple.

If we wish to retain our political power as voters, and if it is impossible to impose legal restraints on the media, we must perforce moderate the demands which we place on the political class.

Yours faithfully, KEN TOPLEY, 8 Royal Crescent Mansions, 100 Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex BN2 1AX, February 6.

From Mr Donald Bishop

Sir, I do not wish the Press Complaints Commission to pre-emptive that which is in my public interest by exercising the dubious mechanism of "prior restraint" promoted by the Lord Chancellor.

I judge it to be in my public interest to know whether those appointed to lead and represent are upright, discharge their undertakings and are considerate to those close to them. Thus forewarned I can accept or discount their utterances.

Yours faithfully, DONALD BISHOP, Castle Hill House, Castle Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5NX, February 5.

Tunnel rail link

From Mr A. J. Lucking

Sir, I believe that the Channel Tunnel rail link fiasco (reports and leading article, January 30) has wider implications for the "train for planes" substitution promoted so enthusiastically by Brussels over the past 12 months.

In 1997 the total diversion of passengers from air to Eurostar, after allowing for traffic growth and including the numerous routes only slightly affected, was less than half of the six million per annum forecast at the beginning of the decade.

I believe that most of this lost million were leisure and personal travellers (through the new high-speed Belgian link which has improved Eurostar's performance since December). Gatwick to Paris, with its higher proportion of leisure passengers, lost more per cent than Heathrow to Paris (37 per cent as against 27 per cent).

The rail "solutions" evolved in the early Nineties were mostly devised by people who commuted to Westminster and Whitehall by train. Since then, however, much of commerce and industry has moved into the era of the "polycentric city": the latest Civil Aviation Authority survey shows that only 22.5 per cent of British international business passengers using Heathrow travelled to or from Central London (defined as Hammersmith to Hackney), compared with 24.7 per cent originating in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and Surrey. Ministers should study such figures before further huge amounts of public money are poured into railway black holes.

In 1996 BR wrote off all the £300 million invested in Channel Tunnel freight installations, plus £200 million to cover tolls due until 2006 - perhaps because of a belated discovery that our axle loading was higher than that acceptable in Germany.

In addition, some £300 million worth of sleeper carriages and equipment are standing unused, and some regional connecting trains have reportedly been sold off to Virgin Rail.

Yours faithfully, A. J. LUCKING, 20/17 Broad Court, WC2B 5QN, February 1.

From Mr John Cobbett

Sir, Your leader writer appears to have fallen into the same trap as London & Continental Railways by believing that even a shortened rail link from the Channel Tunnel to Ebbsfleet could be financially viable.

According to the published accounts of London & Continental and Eurostar, the average passenger revenue is only £24; a two-thirds increase in numbers to 10 million a year would not produce enough revenue to cover operating costs, let alone the return required from private finance to reduce the journey from London to Paris/Brussels by a handful of minutes.

The immediate decision for the Government should be to cancel the present route and to persuade the successors of London & Continental to make Eurostar services more viable by cutting the number of their frequently empty trains. This would also reduce delays to overcrowded Cornish South Eastern trains which have to share the present track.

Yours faithfully, JOHN COBBETT, Foxgrove House, Hillingbourne, Kent ME17 1TR, February 1.

Thames development

From Mr Roger Weston

Sir, The proposed curved Albion Wharf development (Arts/Architecture, February 5) would barge it from its hinterland and "canonise" the Thames, as so much recent riverside development has done.

The river is of enormous importance for transport, sports, recreation and as a wildlife habitat. Development must be seen in the context not only of those who can afford to live on the river bank, but also of the many more who enjoy walking by and venturing upon it.

The West London River Group, an alliance of amenity societies, argues that the much admired Thames Landscape Strategy - Hampton to Key (The Thames Landscape Steering Group, June 1994) should be extended downstream, so that a properly researched set of projects and management plans may be developed.

Yours faithfully, ROGER WESTON (Chairman, West London River Group), 2 Lillian Road, SW13 9JG, February 6.

Immortals in the field

From Professor Emeritus Ronald Taylor

Sir, Waiting in the Pantheon in Paris as twelfth man in Philip Howard's Dead Philosophers cricket XI (column, January 30) would be Voltaire; a ferocious attacker of all loose bowling, especially that of clerics, given to arguing with his captain over the positioning of propositions, but a player whose deafening "Howzat?" admits of only one answer.

He was an early proponent of domestic net practice and of the

Age discrimination

From Mr Michael Gorman

Sir, According to Andrew Smith, Employment Minister, the introduction of a specific law to banish age discrimination in employment is "brought with legal problems" (report, February 3). I doubt if this excuse for effective action will cut much ice with the millions of adults below and over retirement age who have experienced it.

The US Federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) was enacted by Congress in 1967 to protect most workers aged 40 and older. It is based on the premise that ability, not age, should determine an individual's qualifications for getting a job. In many states laws provide even greater protection than the federal Act.

Surely the minister should provide solutions and results rather than back away from perceived difficulties which have been overcome in a far more complex society.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL GORMAN, 39 Park Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4, February 3.

preparation of suitable wickets: "One must cultivate one's garden."

Yours faithfully, RONALD TAYLOR, 8 Briston Grove, N8 9EX.

From Mr Stephen Barker

Sir, Philip Howard's fabulous philosophers' cricket XI would be completed by Dionysos (Bacchus) as twelfth man - to bring on the drinks.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN BARKER, Holly House, 30 Park Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 2LU.

British orchestras in financial straits

From the Chairman of the Association of British Orchestras

Sir, For a number of years this association has been pointing out to both the Arts Council and Government the inevitable consequence of successive cash standstills or cuts in revenue grant, particularly for those orchestras with contracted (and therefore salaried) players who have high fixed costs. The funding shortfall which has opened up for organisations the size of the Hallé during this period would be between £250,000 and £300,000 a year.

Unlike most commercial businesses of similar size, orchestras have very limited or no financial reserves and fixed assets. The annual budgetary system they have to work to, where an error of 5 per cent could be life-threatening, would also be a very severe challenge indeed to any commercial company.

The frequently-made suggestion that if orchestras had "proper" management all their problems would be solved is as flawed as it is predictable. Look no further than the Hallé (reports, February 3 and 6), both of which had brought in experienced chief executives from the commercial sector in the crucial period prior to the emergence of their well publicised financial difficulties.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SUMMERS, Chairman, Association of British Orchestras and Chief Executive, Northern Sinfonia, The Sinfonia Centre, Jesmond Vale, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1PG nsinfonia@ndirect.co.uk February 5.

Tesco's trees

From Mr Tony Juniper

Sir, Friends of the Earth welcomes any attempt by large firms to take their environmental responsibilities seriously. However, Tesco's plan to plant trees to help reduce climate-changing pollution from petrol in cars is highly questionable (report, "Free with petrol: a chance to help save the world", February 4).

Road transport in the UK emits some 31 million tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere annually. If that carbon were stored in a new area of temperate forest a block of trees over three times the size of Wales would be required. Furthermore, if we accept the officially predicted 38 per cent increase in traffic by 2020, it is clear that this route to slowing climate change is at best extremely limited.

If Tesco's wishes to show real leadership in the battle for the planet it should encourage its staff and customers to share cars or cycle to its stores. It could also help to protect the world's existing forests by reducing the amount of wood-based packaging that it sells.

Yours sincerely, TONY JUNIPER (Campaigns Director), Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, N1 7JQ, February 4.

A question of jobs

From Mr Geoffrey Treherne

Sir, I do not complain that £43 million ensures that the Jaguar, an elitist motor vehicle, is to be built in Britain (report, February 3), but I am surprised that so much taxpayers' money can be allocated without a murmur from the media, or anyone else.

A much smaller sum granted to the Arts Council to support our crumbling cultural heritage would guarantee the jobs of many more people and be of lasting benefit to the whole country; but imagine the outcry if this were done.

Yours faithfully, G. A. TREHERNE, Whitebury House, Axford, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2EX, February 5.

Modern message

From Mr Michael Rand

Sir, I sympathise with Hywel Lloyd (letter, February 4) whose software recognises American "Yeah" but not "Yes". Here, in uptown Hinchley Wood, we have speech-recognition software which converts what I say to a microphone into words on a screen.

If I say the name "John", it translates as "Joel" on the screen. If I say "Dear Jim", in a kind of slow Arkansaw drawl, up pops on the screen "Dear John".

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL RAND, 14 Eastmont Road, Hinchley Wood, Surrey KT10 9AZ, February 5.

From Mr R. V. Nicholson

Sir, After witnessing my ever-increasing indignation at BT's inability to understand plain English, my daughter advised: "Press 1 for Yes and 2 for No". Result: replies understood, blood pressure down.

Yours faithfully, R. V. NICHOLSON, 56 Moorside South, Newcastle upon Tyne NEA 9BB, February 4.

Sport letters, page 33 Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR



ST JAMES'S PALACE February 7: The Prince of Wales today visited a community forestry project in the Padchaur area of Nepal, sponsored by the Department for International Development, and afterwards His Royal Highness, as President of WaterAid, visited water and sanitation projects in the Kathmandu area.

Birthdays today

Mr Norman Adams, painter and ceramic sculptor, 71; Brian Bennett, Shadowy drummer, 58; Mr Richard Davies, tenor, 55; Air Commandant B.M. Duca-Ames, former director, RAF Nursing Service, 77; Miss Mia Farrow, actress, 53; Dr Garret FitzGerald, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 73; Mr Bernard Treacher, golfer, 49; Dr George Guest, organist, 74; Mr Justice Johnson, 66; Mr Ben E. King, singer, 56; Mr Sandy Lyle, golfer, 40; Sir Donald Miller, former chairman, Scottish Power, 71; Dame Annette Pennington, 52; Hayden Phillips, civil servant, 55; Miss Amanda Roocroft, opera singer, 32; Professor M.J.H. Sterling, Vice-Chancellor, Brunel University, 52; Mr Gordon Strachan, footballer, 41; Miss Jane Szmán, actress, 59; Mr Clive Swift, actor, 62; Lord Williams of Elvel, 65.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy COMMODORE: H.W. Rickard to be promoted Rear-Admiral and to be Senior Naval Officer (SNO) of the 1st Fleet, Royal College of Defence Studies, 5.3.98. STEVENSON: R.N. Northwood to be promoted Rear-Admiral and to be Flag Officer Submarine Command, HMS Dolphin, 26.6.98. COMMANDEER: J.W. Atwell to Post-graduate School, DGA (N) SU Bath, 26.6.98; L.M. Jaram-Croft to Post-graduate School, DGA (N) SU Bath, 27.6.98; R.T. Love to SSA Bath, 27.6.98; R. Mitchell to Post-graduate School, DGA (N) SU Bath, 27.6.98; A.E. Rych to BGS Washington, 18.8.98; A.R. Trevithick to Staff of the Royal Naval School, 26.6.98; M. Windsor to DNSO, 5.6.98. CHAPLAIN: W.H. Franklin to Dolphin, 28.6.98; R.S. Wort to Capt 05 Sep 97, 28.6.98. Retirement COMMODORE: J.E. Salt, 20.3.98.

Nature notes

MANY birds are starting to sing again: the two commonest new performers in gardens in early February are the chaffinch and the blackbird. The chaffinch's song bursts out brightly from the middle branches of a fruit tree: it is a jaunty run of notes ending in a loud 'chippy-cheo'. The blackbird's soft, luring song is not so instantly noticeable: it sneaks up on the ear, and one usually notices that one is hearing the first blackbird of the year. Nuthatches are whistling in the tree tops, and pied wagtails singing a brisk, babbling song on roofs. Lesser spotted woodpeckers are beginning to drum again: this rapid rattling of a dead tree trunk with their beak plays the same part as song in other birds' lives, enticing females and warning off other males. The first spring flowers are opening: Coltsfoot flowers, like small yellow suns, are coming out on dry roadsides, and the glossy yellow flowers of lesser celandine are unfolding on damp earth beside old walls. Another yellow flower opening on woodland banks is winter aconite, which has a green ruff below the flowerhead. Goosegrass plants in the ditches look like small green pagodas.



The nuthatch

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: William Henry Harrison, 9th American President 1841, Berkeley, Virginia, 1773; Edward Carson, 1st Baron Carson, lawyer and leader of the Irish Unionist Party, Dublin, 1854; Anthony Hope (pseudonym of Sir Anthony Hope Hodgkins), novelist, London, 1863; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, London, 1885; Amy Lowell, poet and critic, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1874; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1885; Jim Laker, cricketer, Bradford, 1922; Brendan Behan, writer, Dublin, 1923. DEATHS: John Hooper, Bishop of Worcester, burnt at the stake, Gloucester, 1555; Benjamin Martin, mathematician, Astronomer Royal, 1765-1811; Greenwith, 1811; Vyodor Dostoevsky, novelist, St Petersburg, 1881; Johann Barthold Jongkind, painter, Côte-St-André, France, 1891; Sir Truay King, pioneer of motorcars, Wellington, New Zealand, 1938; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Capri, 1952; Bill Haley, rock and roll singer, Harlingen, Texas, 1981; Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party 1982-84, Moscow, 1984. The first recorded race meeting in England was held at Roodee Fields, Chester, 1540. Lord Darnley, Consort of Mary Queen of Scots, was murdered in Edinburgh, 1567. The British Government declared a state of emergency after a month-long miners' strike, 1972.

Church news

Latest appointments include: The Rev Sandy Christie, Curate, West Norwood St Luke (South-west), to Curate-in-Charge, Wandsworth All Saints (same diocese). The Rev John Clegg, Rector, South Levenshulme St Andrew (Manchester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Blackley St Paul (same diocese). The Rev James Cox, Team Vicar, Chimesley Wood St Andrew (Birmingham), to be also part-time Chaplain, Brooklands Hospital, Marston Green (same diocese). The Rev Jennifer Deverill, NSM Curate, Battersea St Luke (South-west), to be also part-time Chaplain St George's NHS Trust (same diocese). The Rev Steve Edwards, Curate, Bradshaw St Maxentius (Manchester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Brightwell St James (same diocese).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.M. Holliday and Miss N.S. Westwood. The engagement is announced between Mark Holliday and Nicki Westwood, of Priory Mansions, London SW10. Mr A.G. Tait and Miss F.G. Crichton. The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Andrew Tait, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Tait, of the Isle of Arran, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Allan Crichton, of Newbury, Berkshire.

Relics of southern seas recall epic voyage that opened up Tasmania



A pioneering voyage in an open boat in the perilous seas around the southern Australian coast in 1797-98 has been recalled by a saleroom discovery in London. George Bass and his party (seen right in a contemporary sketch) established the existence of a navigable passage between Australia and Tasmania. This was later named the Bass Strait. The compass he used (above) and a collection of letters home have passed down the family and are to be sold on April 8 at Christie's, where they are expected to fetch about £60,000. Bass, a young naval surgeon from Lincolnshire, sailed on the Reliance for New South Wales in 1794. He was an enthusiastic naturalist and offered his services to Governor Hunter to explore the coast. "He accepted my offer and, having no better vessel, fitted out a whale boat," he wrote to his mother. Using the tiny compass they navigated round the coastline via Wilson's Promontory to Western Port, near present-day Melbourne. He deduced from the great swell and the direction of the tides that a passage separated the two land masses and described to his mother "an opening of great width, the existence of a strait..."



George Bass and his party in a contemporary sketch

BOOTS AND FISTS FLY IN NAPLES

With three goals behind them from the first leg of their Cities' Pairs Cup tie and a penalty draw here this afternoon in the San Paolo stadium, Burnley have projected themselves without distinction into the last eight of the competition. This was a match that bore a third-class tourist ticket. But for the brilliance of Thomson between the goalposts — as fine an exhibition of all-round goalkeeping as ever I remember — this was an exhibition of football that had no stature and little dignity. To round it all off, too, sadly and not unexpectedly, there were the usual scenes of frustrated violence by the spectators at the final whistle. Two minutes from the end the final disturbance broke out on the field in an otherwise reasonably well-controlled match. Merington, foolishly held back Sivori, who, showing his quick South American temperament, jabbed his opponent, lashed out at Morgan, then kicked at O'Neill. But unfortunately the fire spilled over on to the terraces. At the last whistle, as the players

ON THIS DAY February 9, 1967

Geoffrey Green, who wrote passionately on football and other games, closed his report of this match with the words, "Oh to be a Correspondent for anglers, who at least hope the fish will bite". left by their tunnel, a shower of cushions and other missiles rained down from the terraces. Suddenly a fracas started in a mass of bodies. Other carbiniers shifted the angry crowd as they tried to start bonfires on the terraces. "We have seen this before, and doubtless we shall see it again. The Italian temperament, if outside the ground, the Burnley party, was all right, stomach anything but success in sport. For Thomson, however, on this day Arcady always lay just over the brow of the hill. He was inspired and unbeatable. From the moment

that a header by Altafini from Braca's corner, kick struck his crossbar in the very first minute, nothing eluded his hawk eye or prebentile hands. Not once again did he need the support of the woodwork as he cut the hearts out of Altafini, Juliano, Orlando, Braca, and twice even Bianchi, as the talented attacking wing-half kept at him with close-range, stony headers. And to crown a magnificent display, Thomson even frightened Altafini into hitting the post from a penalty. The Lancastrians certainly played no attacking football worthy of the name. There was an outlook of sheer attrition and though they played it coolly — with only Morgan, Coates, and Lockhead ever in the forward area — it offered nothing of a spectacle as Naples, pulling haughty paces, tried to sweep a way through an over-populated penalty area. They saw out the game with Latcham and Altafini crashing heads, and leaving the field bald in blood. Altafini in due course left the fray, but Latcham bravely returned. That was an accident, but what came of it was something to forget. Six policemen having already been knocked out in the disturbance, outside the ground, the Burnley party, was given a protective escort to the airport by 50 armed guards in nine jeeps. What a charming final curtain to a little game of football.

Marriages

The Hon J.C.F. Lyons-Dabberg-Aston and Miss L.A.F. Perival. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Brighton Oratory of the Hon John Acton, only son of Lord Acton, of London, and the late Mrs Perival, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs James Percival, of Marlborough, Dorset. The Rev the Hon Charles Acton officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Arabella Scott, Emily Acton, Jack and Guy Merrill and Miss Kate Dain. Mr James Style was best man. A reception was held at the National Liberal Club. Mr A.C. Goswell and Miss E.V. Marshall. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Giles, Stoke Poges, of Mr Angus Goswell, younger son of Sir Brian and Lady Goswell, of Pinney's Green, Berkshire, and Miss Elizabeth Marshall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Marshall, of Broomfield, Suffolk. The Rev C.E. Harris officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Sophie Walker and Miss Kate Bird. Mr Paul Goswell was best man. A reception was held at Stoke Park and the honeymoon will be spent abroad. Mr P.J. Bear and Miss C.J. McCarthy. The marriage took place on May 31, 1997, at St Ilyd's Church, Llantrilyd, Vale of Glamorgan, of Philip John Bear to Catherine Jeanne McCarthy. Mr J.M.R. Brufel de Melgarejo and Miss S.J. Feeney. The marriage took place on Saturday at St Elizabeth's Church, Scarborough, between Jonathan Brufel de Melgarejo, son of the Marquis and Marquise de Sovero, and Sarah Feeney, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Feeney. The Very Rev Daniel Rees, OSB, officiated, assisted by the Rev Geoffrey Scott, OSB. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Robert Dingwall, who was best man. A reception was held at St. Nicholas' Hall and the honeymoon is being spent in India. Major G.H.F.S. Nickerson and Miss F.L. Pearce. The marriage took place on Saturday, February 7, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, between Major Harry Nickerson, elder son of late Major George Mackenzie and late Major George Mackenzie, of Mrs George Mackenzie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Pearce, of Hadley Wood. The Rev Christopher Courtland officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Fionnuala Moynihan, Thelma and William De Riter and Hugh Gordon. Mr Hugh Nickerson was best man. A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent abroad. Flagg sculpture. William Flagg, is to sit for the sculptor James Simeonson. An invited audience in London today as the artist creates a bust of the 60-year-old leader in clay. All proceeds will go to the BBC's Children in Need charity.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

DEATHS: Margaret Lora, on 5th February, in her 90th year, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, after a long illness. Burial at Edgbaston Crematorium, Birmingham, on 11th February 1998. Mrs Lora was the wife of the late Mr Robert Lora. She is survived by her daughter, Mrs Joan Lora, and her son, Mr Robert Lora. Mrs Lora was a member of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Baptist Church. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Her funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Friday, 13th February 1998, at St George's Church, Edgbaston. Burial will follow at Edgbaston Crematorium. Donations to Birmingham and Edgbaston Baptist Church, 11th Street, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2JG. Tel: 0121 454 1981. Family flowers only, by request. Condolences accepted.

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LEGAL NOTICES: THE HIGH COURT. 1997. No. 256. In the Matter of Dana Petroleum PLC and in the Matter of the Companies Acts, 1983-1990. NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Ireland dated 19th January, 1998, continuing the reduction of capital of Dana Petroleum plc by IR£2,248,367.37 to IR£1,000,000.00, from IR£2,751,612.63 and the minute approved by the Court with respect to the said reduction as required by the Companies Act, 1963 were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23rd January, 1998. (Note: in accordance with the Scheme of Arrangement approved by the High Court of Ireland on 19th January, 1998, the said capital was immediately increased from IR£2,751,612.63 by IR£2,248,367.37 to its former amount of IR£1,000,000.00.) A & L Goodbody, 1 Earlsfort Centre, Hatch Street, Dublin 2. Solicitors for Dana Petroleum plc. Ref: CLP. INTERNATIONAL CARE AND RELIEF. All He Wants is A CHANCE. All He Needs is A CARER. Tel: 01732 450250.



OBITUARY

ENOCH POWELL

Enoch Powell, PC, MBE, politician, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on June 16, 1912.

Although he was one of the great "loners" of British politics, Enoch Powell captured the public imagination in a way seldom given to more orthodox politicians. Of his nearly 37 years in Parliament he held office for only just over five (and sat in the Cabinet for a matter of a mere 15 months). But that somehow never seemed to affect his stature with the electorate. During at least his middle years — following his notorious "rivers of blood" speech on coloured immigration of April 1968 — he enjoyed a zealous following which for days hoped that the might one day sweep into power, rather like a rightful king returning in triumph, from exile to claim his inheritance.

Powell never triumphed, and it was perhaps as well that he did not. There were serious flaws in this man of many parts: classical scholar, poet, soldier, biblical scholar, parliamentarian and orator. But if he was an unfulfilled politician — and it was he who perceptively said "All political careers end in failure" — he was never a negligible one.

Like Margaret Thatcher, he enjoyed the rare distinction for a politician of giving his name to a doctrine. "Powellism", which predated "Thatcherism", had a powerful appeal for a whole generation of his fellow countrymen: disillusioned with the hesitant, middle-of-the-road, inflation-prone compromises of successive Conservative governments. When under Mrs Thatcher the Conservative Party shifted its ground away from consensus politics, and became a party of sound money, it was substantially because Powellism had pointed the way.

By that time, however, Powell, all too characteristically, had distanced himself from what had become the true faith. (It was Margaret Thatcher herself who once exclaimed in exasperation during a meeting of the Tory Philosophy Group: "Oh Enoch, do try to be constructive.") Of his authentic Tory credentials there was never any doubt: it was just that he was not cut out by nature to view politics as a team sport.

An aloof, austere figure, the very reverse of "the man in the street", he nevertheless ranked among the great populist speakers of the century. In an age when platform oratory was thought to be outmoded, he could hold, in the palm of his hand, crowded audiences — most of whom understood only a fraction of what he said. This power, of course, was partly a matter of physical presence. He was not a distinguished-looking man in any conventional sense. But there was something hypnotic about the unnaturally white face, the intense pale blue eyes, the voice that never lost the cadences of his native Black Country.

Although he was often compared to Cassandra, there was an important distinction between Powell and the legendary prophetess, whose fate it was accurately to predict doom and not to be believed. At least the more lurid of Powell's prophecies — particularly in the realm of race — were never fulfilled or vindicated. On the other hand, and again in contrast to Cassandra, his forecasts of coming disaster were constantly being quoted (or misquoted) at almost all levels of society — by garrulous taxi drivers or Smithfield butchers at one end of the social spectrum and by meticulous academics or alarmed maiden ladies at the other — as providing the best guidance as to what it was right for the British people to do.

The emphasis was on the word "British". Powell voiced two basic instincts shared by many, perhaps most, of his fellow-countrymen. One was that the British should not

be subject to the edicts of any European superstate. It was Powell who pioneered the parliamentary sovereignty arguments which, though dismissed at the time of the 1975 European referendum, have since returned to haunt successive British governments. On this ground alone, he could claim to have been the spiritual leader of the Eurosceptics, long before their cause became a fashionable one. And he remained the most powerful champion of those opposed to federalism long after he had ceased to be a credible candidate for high office.

But another of his gut instincts was perhaps a more dangerous one. It arose from his conviction that the nation — or at least that part of it symbolised by the graves in Anglo-Saxon churchyards — was in "great peril" from black immigration. "Like the Romans," he declared at Birmingham in 1968, "when he predicted racial conflict across the length and breadth of the land, I seem to see the River Tiber flowing with much blood." With that one speech he succeeded in offending virtually all his top colleagues. Edward Heath dismissed him from the Shadow Cabinet for it and would have lost his Shadow Home Secretary, Quinlan Hogg, had he not done so.

There is less controversy today over Powell's warnings of the dangers of runaway public expenditure. This was the issue that led to the first of his many spectacular differences with the Conservative leadership. His resignation, along with the whole ministerial team at the Treasury, in January 1983, was laughed off at the time by the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, as a "little local difficulty", but it was to become, in retrospect, a key episode in the political history of the 20th century.

John Enoch Powell was born in Stechford, Birmingham, the only child of two school-teachers. His mother, who was 14 years younger than his father, probably had the stronger influence upon him, starting him on Ancient Greek at the age of five — though from both his parents he clearly inherited his didactic tendencies. He was an extraordinarily precocious small boy — able to read by the age of three and regularly at the same age various lectures to visitors on the various stuffed birds that stood in cases around the house. Perhaps not surprisingly, he was nicknamed "the Professor" — an uncannily farseeing sobriquet, since that was what he was to become in Australia at the astonishingly early age of 25.

Before then, though, his distinction as a classical scholar had been firmly established. First at King Edward's, Birmingham, and then at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he arrived in time to sit under his lifelong great hero, A. E. Housman, the Kennedy Professor of Latin as well as being the poet immortalised by his *A Shropshire Lad*. Powell himself also wrote poetry, both while an undergraduate and later: most of it strongly bears the mark of Housman as a role model. Even in his early eighties he was unable to recite on the radio Housman's famous lines — "Loveliest of trees the cherry now! Is hung with bloom along the bough" — without breaking down.

Trinity, however, also provided him with what could in other circumstances have been the foundations of an illustrious academic career. He won a whole clutch of classical prizes, including the Craze Scholarship, staying up for a year's research before in 1934 at the age of 22 being elected a fully-fledged Fellow of the college at which he had been an undergraduate.

But even at this stage of his career Powell was restless. In an effort to emulate another hero of his, Friedrich Nietzsche, who had become a professor at the age of 24,



he started applying for chairs in other universities almost as soon as he had been elected to his fellowship at Trinity. With English universities he had little luck, but before his 26th birthday the University of Sydney obliged by offering him its Chair of Greek. He arrived in Sydney in February 1938, but he was already convinced that he would not be there long, since he had been certain — ever since Hitler's Night of the Long Knives in 1934 — that war was unavoidable.

The Second World War, which prevented him from taking up a new post as Professor of Greek and Classical Literature at Durham University, was to determine the rest of Powell's career. After an uncertain start — he had enlisted as a private, claiming he was an Australian in order to get round the call-up regulations — he found life "in the King's coat" very much to his taste. He always liked to claim that he had enjoyed his time in the ranks most of all but that did not stop him from rising to serve on the General Staff and becoming a brigadier. While serving in Cairo as secretary of the Joint Intelligence Committee, Middle East, he was appointed MBE (militia) in 1943. There was something about the hierarchical structure of the Army that answered a need in his nature and when Powell found the romance of imperial India, to which General Auchinleck summoned him towards the end of 1943, added to the discipline of soldiering, his cup almost overflowed.

He decided to go into politics in a conscious effort to help to preserve the British Empire. There is a touching story of how just after Indian Independence in August 1947 he walked the streets of

London all night trying to come to terms with what had occurred (there is another more mischievous, and almost certainly apocryphal, legend that he actually wrote a paper for Churchill outlining the number of divisions it would take to hold India within the Empire against her will). But of one thing there can be no doubt: the bottom fell out of Powell's world when he realised that, contrary to everything that he had hoped during the war, his own life would not now be spent in the service of the Raj.

Those who chose to ignore the romantic side of Powell's character frequently ended up as perhaps his principal ideological enemy. It was in the Parliamentary Secretariat — later amalgamated with the Conservative Research Department in Old Queen Street — that Powell cut his teeth in Tory politics. He was one of an exceptional trio of young men (the other two were Macleod and Reggie Maudling) recruited in 1946 to serve as "boffins" to R. A. Butler. But, like his two future Cabinet colleagues, his eyes were really set on the House of Commons. Powell experienced more difficulty than

his two contemporaries in getting there. After fighting a hopeless by-election in the Yorkshire mining constituency of Normanton in February 1947, he was rejected no fewer than 19 times for more promising seats. Finally, at the end of 1948, he was adopted for the highly marginal Wolverhampton South-West, which he managed to win by a majority of 691 in the general election of February 1950. He was an admirably assiduous, if so far as his association was concerned sometimes prickly, constituency MP and Wolverhampton SW was to provide him with his political base for the next 24 years.

In the Commons Powell proved a slow burner. Always competitive, he was irritated (if not actually jealous) when Macleod, in the wake of his devastating onslaught upon Aneurin Bevan in a Commons health debate, bounded straight into being Churchill's Minister of Health in May 1952. Maudling also joined the Government later in 1952 but Powell was forced to bide his time. He received no preferment in his first Parliament and had to wait until the end of 1955 before getting his foot on a lowly rung of the ministerial ladder as Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Somewhat surprisingly, this appointment came to him after Sir Anthony Eden had become Prime Minister — he had been a great opponent of the then Foreign Secretary over the withdrawal of British Forces from the Suez Canal zone in 1954 — but, once that deed was done, he almost overnight changed his position and began to talk the language of "the hallucination of Empire". The seeds for the future Little Englander had been firmly planted.

A more significant promotion came for Powell when he was appointed by Macmillan, who had succeeded Eden, to be Financial Secretary to the Treasury in January 1957. But he was to remain in Great George Street for only a year, resigning, along with Peter Thorneycroft and Nigel Birch, over the Cabinet's failure to hold down public expenditure in January 1958. He enjoyed the freedom of the back benches, taking full advantage of his position of being beholden to no one to deliver a memorable philippic against the official British reaction to the atrocities committed at the Hola Camp in Kenya in July 1959, just before that year's general election.

There was no immediate reward for Powell once Macmillan had won his crushing victory at the "You never had it so good" election of 1959. That was hardly a surprise — Powell had felt so strong a distaste for the whole tone and approach of the Tory campaign that he refused even to include a photograph of Macmillan in his election address in Wolverhampton SW. When he did finally get back into office — as Minister of Health (initially outside the Cabinet, though at last being sworn of the Privy Council) in July 1960 — he owed his good fortune to Iain Macleod, who chivalrously had pressed his claims upon Macmillan. As Minister of Health — a post he took extremely conscientiously — he took a leading part in recruiting Caribbean immigrants

for nursing and other hospital jobs. Although this was largely done before the passing of the Commonwealth Immigration Act of 1962, it was a record that, not surprisingly, returned to haunt him once he had delivered his Birmingham speech.

Even in Cabinet, Powell's relations with Macmillan were never easy; indeed, the Prime Minister is reputed once to have asked the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Norman Brook, to have the Health Minister's seat moved as he could no longer bear looking into those intense, obsessive eyes. In a way, that may have been a case of premonition — for, when the Profumo crisis broke in 1963, it was Powell in Cabinet who subjected the Prime Minister to the most rigorous cross-examination of all.

When Sir Alec Douglas-Home became Prime Minister in place of a stricken Macmillan in October 1963, both Macleod and Powell refused to serve in the new Home Government. Their reasons may have been slightly different, though each was a strong Butler supporter (it was Powell who was later to produce the famous account of how Rab had been handed a loaded revolver but had refused to use it out of a reluctance to cause a bang or spill any blood). After Home had lost the October 1964 election, he restored both Powell and Macleod to his Shadow Cabinet, if hardly in very exalted positions (Powell became Opposition spokesman on Transport and Macleod Shadow Minister of Power). But when Home himself resigned the leadership in July 1965, their prospects looked up. Macleod was chosen to be Shadow Chancellor by Edward Heath and Powell, despite having got only 15 votes in the Tories' first ever leadership ballot, was appointed Shadow Minister of Defence.

The only charitable assumption has to be that the new Tory leader had in no way connected the man he had chosen as his defence spokesman with a series of three anonymous articles that had appeared in *The Times* in April 1964. They bore the byline simply "A Conservative" but there is no longer any room for doubt that Powell was their author. In all three of them he, in effect, set out his ideological stall for the coming decade, and there were very few items upon it — an immediate withdrawal from East of Suez, a repudiation of every form of economic interventionism, a demand for new laws to govern coloured immigration — that would have commanded Heath's automatic assent.

As it was, the two men lived unhappily together for just short of three years — with Powell periodically rocking the boat, as in his anti-American Falkirk speech during the 1966 election campaign (when he compared the British Government's relationship with Lyndon Johnson to Charles II's Secret Treaty of Dover with Louis XIV), and Heath specialising in patronising put-downs (as when he announced to the National Press Club in Washington in June 1966 that, so far as he was aware, Powell had been talking recently only about "milk and the Co-ops"). It was not an easy relationship and, if the collision over Commonwealth immigration had not brought matters to a head, the chances are that something else would have done.

The penultimate lap of Powell's active political career was dominated by his duel with Heath. He liked to claim that, by the force of his advocacy and his readiness to talk about issues that actually mattered to people (meaning race), he alone had secured for Heath his surprise victory against Harold Wilson in the June 1970 general election. That was probably exaggerating his role a little; but of his impact, especially in the West Midlands, there was plenty of objective evidence. Yet the actual result of that election was still a bad blow to Powell. If Heath had lost, he would have been in line to become the next Tory leader. As it was, Heath's unforeseen success — in Powell's own vivid phrase — "sealed my exile". (The two men never spoke again after the phone call in which Heath sacked Powell from the Opposition front bench in April 1968.)

Left on the back benches, Powell deployed all his talents for scorn and mockery to castigate the Conservative Government's economic record — particularly after the famous U-turn of 1972. As Heath moved steadily towards corporatism, Powell caused probably unnecessary offence by publicly raising doubts as to the "emotional and mental stability" of the Prime Minister. But even that was no preparation for the shock to come. On the day the February 1974 "miners' strike" election was announced, the outgoing Member for Wolverhampton SW, having first alerted Harold Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, revealed that he was not prepared to be a Conservative candidate in "an essentially fraudulent" contest. Two uninhibited speeches scourging the Heath Government's performance (particularly over British entry into the EEC) followed in the later stages of the campaign — speeches, since they implicitly favoured its cause, that the Labour Party did its very best not to overshadow.

It was a tactic that worked. When the results of the "Shall Unions or People Rule?" election were de-

clared, it gradually became clear that Heath's gamble had failed. Powell himself had that night gone to bed at his normal hour of 11pm so it was not until the next morning that he learnt from a newspaper headline peeping out of his letter-box of his adversary's humiliation. He then, according to his own account, took *The Times* upstairs and sang the *Te Deum* in his bath.

But whatever comfort Powell derived from his part in destroying the Heath Government — and, significantly, the anti-Tory swing was much higher in the area in and around Birmingham than anywhere else in the country — this hardly solved his own problems. He was now out of the House of Commons and, given the genuine anger his actions had caused to Central Office, had very little chance of getting back. There is some evidence that during the summer of 1974 — with Heath's writ necessarily running less strongly in the party than it had done — Powell did make advances (or had them made on his behalf) to one or two English constituencies. But nothing came of these.

It was, therefore, with some relief that he learnt in August of the intention of Captain Lawrence Orr, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, not to fight his constituency of South Down at the next election. Orr himself favoured Powell as his successor and it took only a week for him to be selected.

Given the obvious inappropriateness of his lining up under the banner of a party which was still nominally led by Heath, a resort to the Orange politics of Ulster provided in many ways a neat solution. And yet there was still a price that had to be paid for it.

As a member of an undistinguished minority party — which had already cut its formal ties with the Tories in the Commons — Powell inevitably counted for much less at Westminster than he had done before. Nor was his position helped by the only-too-obvious fact that he was in many ways at cross-purposes with his colleagues. While they favoured self-determination for the Province, he was always an unapologetic advocate of ever-closer integration with the rest of the United Kingdom — the main reason why, despite recurring rumours to the contrary, he never stood a chance of becoming the Ulster Unionists' leader.

Yet Powell himself certainly enjoyed his Indian summer as an Ulster Member of Parliament. It was a different life, no doubt, from the one he had originally contemplated but at least he felt at home in the Commons — and when he lost his right to sit there (through his defeat at the hands of an SDLP candidate at the 1987 general election) he became, as his wife once put it, "like a man bereaved".

His admirers — who included figures such as Nicholas Budgen, his successor at Wolverhampton SW, to whom he wrote unavailingly to pledge his support in the 1997 general election, and the former Leader of the Commons, John Biffen, himself ennobled by John Major — would have liked him to go to the Lords. But here there was a snag. A former historian of the medieval House of Lords, he was an outspoken opponent of life peerages — and indeed had played a major part with Michael Foot in wrecking the 1969 Parliament No 2 Bill precisely on the ground that it increased the power of patronage at No 10 to an unacceptable degree. So he would certainly have felt uncomfortable had a life peerage come his way — though there is no evidence that one was even offered. An hereditary peerage would, of course, have been a different matter — but while Margaret Thatcher was prepared to bestow an earldom on Harold Macmillan and hereditary viscounties on William Whitelaw, her former deputy, and on George Thomas, the former Speaker of the House of Commons, she appears not to have felt disposed to do anything similar for the one figure whose approach to both economics and politics could be said to have anticipated her own.

Never a man easily able to relax (though he had a penchant for Jacques Tati films), Enoch Powell remained dedicated to work almost to the end of his life. Although the poetic muse deserted him — in his later years he produced only a poem a year to mark his and his wife's wedding anniversary — he fully maintained his interest in biblical scholarship, publishing in 1992 a controversial textual study of St Matthew, entitled *The Evolution of the Gospel*. Book reviews — usually intelligent but sometimes quirky — also flowed from him, as did broadcast interviews, at least until his voice (under the increasing grip of Parkinson's disease) took on much of the rhythm of a metronome. One of his last television excursions was in a Michael Cockerell BBC TV profile, of which he was the subject, in November 1995. Looking distinctly frail, he also attended the unveiling of the window panel commemorating A. E. Housman in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner in September 1996.

Enoch Powell married in 1952 Pamela Wilson, who had worked with him in the Conservative Parliamentary Secretariat and Research Department. She and their two daughters survive him.



War-time service: Powell in Egypt as secretary of the Joint Intelligence Committee, Middle East



NEWS

Briefing on Iraq raids at Forces HQ

Service chiefs were summoned to a secret briefing at the Forces' Command Centre before dawn yesterday, in a fresh sign of military preparations for action against Iraq.

Tributes are paid to Enoch Powell

Enoch Powell, one of the most charismatic politicians of his generation, died yesterday, aged 85. Tony Blair and Baroness Thatcher led the tributes to a man they described as one of the great figures of 20th-century politics.

New Cabinet post

Tony Blair is likely to create a powerful new Cabinet post of spokesman for the whole Government. The holder would also be the key ministerial link to the Labour Party.

Fight to save Diana

The life of Diana, Princess of Wales, might have been saved had French medical workers rushed her from car crash to hospital immediately, according to a new book being serialised in The Times from tomorrow.

Cook's humble pie

Robin Cook rebutted the Lord Chancellor's call for tougher press curbs when he described the revelations over his affair as a humbling experience.

Dodi child denial

A claim that Dodi Fayed had an illegitimate child a year before he enjoyed a romance with Diana is a "cruel and wicked lie", his family said.

Windsors sale

When the personal possessions of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor are sold in New York this month, it will take nine days to auction their memorabilia.

More homes in cities

Disused sites in cities could be used for four times as many homes as forecast, reducing demand for green-belt land, new evidence shows.

Bournemouth banishes the bath chair

Dismissing the cliché of its "bathchair and blue-rinse image", tourist officials in Bournemouth are promoting the town as the party capital of the South Coast, and even boasting of its dubious accolade as winner of the Durex award for Britain's most popular beach for open-air sex.

Elementary success

Schools are to put Sherlock Holmes and Philip Marlowe on teenagers' reading lists after research showed studying detective fiction helped to boost boys' literacy.

Police art squad

A national network of police art and antiques specialists is being set up to combat annual losses of £500 million in stolen paintings, furniture and jewellery.

Palestinians accused

Israel blamed the Palestinian Authority for whipping up riots in support of Iraq after weekend violence in Bethlehem in which 15 people were injured.

Lewinsky 'coercion'

Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, was accused of intimidating Monica Lewinsky to testify about her relationship with President Clinton.

Black box 'tampering'

The row over US bases in Italy worsened with allegations that American officials had tampered with the flight recorder of the US aircraft that caused last Tuesday's cable-car disaster.

Bodies recovered

Relief workers using shovels dug through the rubble to pull out the bodies of some of the 4,000 victims of last week's earthquake in the remote northern Afghan province of Dakhar.



A child approaches the Pope at a Vatican service. The pontiff later said there was still time to resolve the Iraq crisis peacefully. Page 1

Good to talk

BT is in negotiations with four large American telecoms firms as an alternative to its abortive merger with MCI.

Indonesia rescue

A director of Standard Chartered, is to chair a committee of banks which have lent billions of dollars to bankrupt Indonesian companies.

Mis-selling showdown

Hundreds of elderly homeowners struggling under £4 million of debt from mis-sold home income plans will today sue West Bromwich Building Society for £10.5 million.

John Redwood

"Margaret Beckett... will surrender most of the Government's competition powers to Brussels - and the rest to quangoes".

Dianna, Princess of Wales

Two American writers conduct an anatomy of her death aimed at separating fact from fiction.

Mind and matter

Melvin Bragg explains why there is more to life than the arts; plus, ticket offer for Why Science Matters.

Music man

Richard Morrison meets Paul Conroy, president of Virgin Records and chairman of this year's Brit Awards.

Evergreen staging

Nicholas Hytner's production of Handel's Xerxes may be 13 years old, but under the expert guidance of Emma Jenkins at the Coliseum it looks as fresh as ever.

Short cut to success

This season the most fashionable trouser will be the pedal pusher or clam-digger, says Grace Bradberry.

Young Marnet

David Marnet's early play, Lakeboat, receives its belated British premiere at the Lyric Studio in Hammersmith.

Write shift

"PEN is the only international writers' organisation. It has 130 centres in 100 countries. It promotes intellectual co-operation and freedom of speech".

Cricket

Chasing a total of 282 to beat England, West Indies were 121-4 as the second Test moved towards a tense finish.

Football

Two first-half goals by Stephen Hughes gave Arsenal a 2-0 victory over Chelsea in the London derby in the FA Carling Premiership.

Tennis

History repeated itself for Greg Rusedski yesterday when he was beaten 7-6, 7-6 by Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Croatian indoor championship.

Rugby union

Forward play, traditionally the greatest strength in England teams, is the area where England were found wanting in their defeat by France.

Athletics

Solomon Wariso, who was suspended for a drugs offence at the European championships four years ago, returned to win 400 metres title at the AAA championships in Birmingham.

Sailing

EF Language, skippered by Paul Cayard, has taken advantage of favourable conditions to take the lead as the Whitbread Round the World Race moves towards Cape Horn.

Lottery

Five winners win £1,579,211 each for six numbers; 15 win £161,970 for five numbers and the bonus; 1,200 win £1,265 for four numbers; 1,184,843 win £10 for three numbers.

ARTS

Why starring in a Kevin Kline movie is suddenly making Joan Cusack famous

LAW

Being in Opposition for 18 years has paid off for John Morris, QC, new Attorney-General



John Redwood and Margaret Beckett. Page 46

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ARTS

Why starring in a Kevin Kline movie is suddenly making Joan Cusack famous

LAW

Being in Opposition for 18 years has paid off for John Morris, QC, new Attorney-General

Preview: 11 near-tragedies in Great Escapes (TV 8.30). Review: Matthew Bond on Yo-Yo Ma: Inspired by Bach: the most prestigious television of the year. Pages 46, 47

Understanding Enoch

It is by understanding Enoch better, separating the tactical error from the philosophical wisdom, that the Tories and the country can best benefit from his rich legacy - like Burke's, "a magazine of wisdom". Page 21

Civics lesson

Local government requires a radically different model if it is to re-engage its public and persuade a reluctant Treasury to cede some financial autonomy. Page 21

Elementary, says Holmes

I see from my notebook that it was on Monday morning on February 9, 1998, that I learnt that Sherlock Holmes has been selected to teach the schoolboys of the United Kingdom to read. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I do not think one ought actually to speak to spin-doctors, except occasionally to take a cup of tea with them on the way into their minister's office. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

The television image of Mr Blair as the nervous younger brother loyally supporting his embattled elder brother Clinton was misleading. The relationship is more one of two committed professionals. Page 20

MICHAEL PORTILLO

As for the issue of Britain and the European Union, every argument worth making was made by Enoch Powell in speeches a quarter of a century ago. Page 20

ENOCH POWELL, politician

Page 23

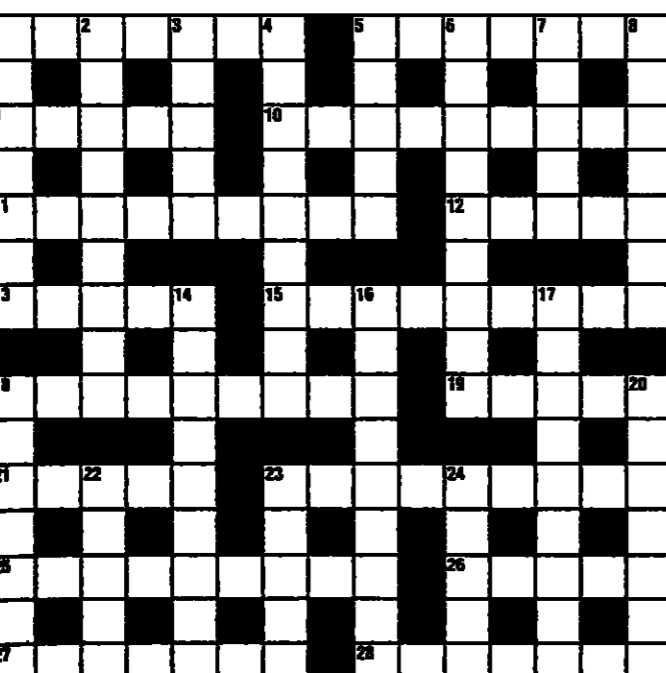
LEGITIMACY OF BOMBING IRAQ; press freedom; tunnel rail link

Page 21

THE PAPERS

Once again, as with Bosnia, Rwanda and Algeria, there is a deafening silence [on Iraq] from the EU, which still has no common foreign or defence policy. As a body it is militarily impotent and politically mute. Corriere Della Sera, Rome

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,710



- ACROSS
1 Exploits at work a timid youth (7).
5 Apparel extremely apt for one's natural environment (7).
9 One who publicises a horse (5).
10 Cover for light sort of ale politicians had taken in (9).
11 Cause trouble in work at salon? (4,5).
12 Nymph involved in more adventures (5).
13 City is at the cutting edge, we hear (5).
15 Weaker player almost gets points? That's rare (9).
18 They contain tapes prescribed for study in Indian classes (9).
19 Friend replacing central piece of chain (5).
21 Loop of thread found in tea, say (5).
23 Persistently evade guard duty? It doesn't matter (5,4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,709 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun sets: 7:26 am
Moon sets: 6:02 am
Sun rises: 5:04 pm
Moon rises: 3:21 pm

Full moon February 11
London 5:04 pm to 7:24 am
Bright 5:14 pm to 7:34 am
Edinburgh 6:03 pm to 7:50 am
Manchester 6:07 pm to 7:30 am
Perthshire 5:30 pm to 7:42 am

FORECAST

General: Mild. Southern parts of England and Wales, and the Midlands, dry but rather cloudy. The South East should brighten, with sunny spells. Rain in Scotland will move south reaching N Ireland and northern areas of England and Wales. Eastern Scotland will become dry. Windy in northern parts of the United Kingdom; local gales likely in western Scotland. The Irish Republic cloudy and windy with rain.
London, SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands: Dry with sunny spells. Moderate southerly breeze Max 12C (54F).
Central, East N, SW England, W Midlands, Channell Is, S Wales: Cloudy, a few bright spells. Moderate to fresh southerly breeze Max 12C (54F).
N Wales, NW England, Lakes, hills: Overcast. Rain at times, especially over high ground. Hill fog. Fresh southwest wind. Max 12C (54F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

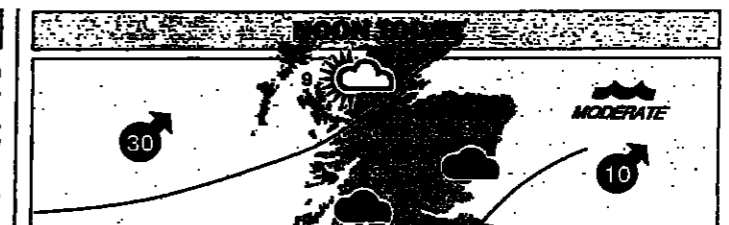
Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Locations include Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc.

WINDS AND WAVES

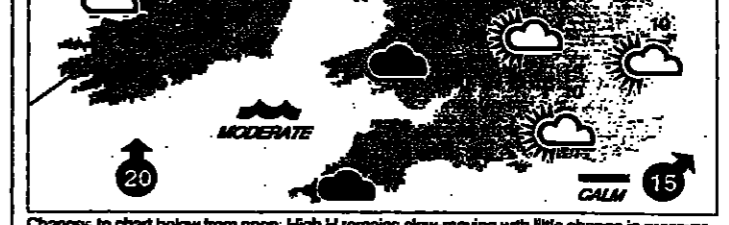
Table with columns for location, wind direction and speed, and wave height. Locations include Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY LOCAL TIME ON SATURDAY

Table with columns for location and temperature. Locations include Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc.



Changes to chart below from noon. High H remains slow-moving with little change in pressure. High M persists over western Mediterranean. Low L expected to move slowly east and III



Winds and waves. Wind direction and speed indicated by arrows. Wave height indicated by line length. Legend: Warm front, Cold front, Occluded front.

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Locations include Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

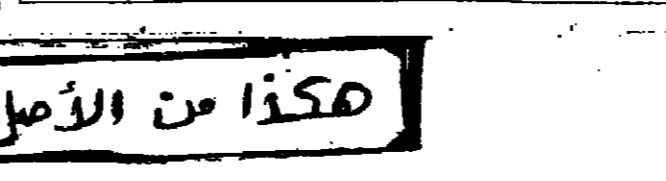
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Kilmarnock, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 2C (46F); highest rainfall: Sains Ness, Shetland, 0.9mm; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 6.0h.

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

DOWN AND OUT

England forced to face home truths in Paris PAGE 35

WINNING FORMULA

Appliance of science leads the way at Winter Olympics PAGE 26

BACK TO BASICS

Stevenage return to earth. Lynne Truss reports PAGE 33

PLUS Arsenal repel Chelsea at Highbury PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 1998

BATSMEN LAY THE GROUND FOR VICTORY IN TRINIDAD



Headley celebrates an early breakthrough in the West Indies second innings as Campbell, caught by Stewart in the slips, sets off for the pavilion yesterday. Photograph by Clive Mason/Allsport.

Fraser steps up England pace

FROM ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN

FOR the third time in consecutive Caribbean tours, England created a winning position yesterday on the Queen's Park Oval ground where West Indies have not lost in 21 years. And, for the third time, the hard-earned advantage was threatened by a stirring revival.

Disciplined, dedicated batting on a pitch that could never be trusted, had given England clear sight of a 1-0 lead in what is now effectively a six-Test series. West Indies had an improbable task to make 282, the highest score of this second Test in its final innings, but, despite the cheap dismissal of Brian Lara, they were sustaining the contest on the penultimate evening.

A half-century by Stuart Williams, the opener from St Vincent, was robustly supported by Carl Hooper. Their third-wicket stand of 52 brought the target within feasible bounds, but the tireless Angus Fraser removed Williams to deflate West Indian optimism.

The merit of England's batting on Saturday could paradoxically be measured by the speed of their decline yesterday morning. Their six remaining wickets were swept away in 12 overs for only 30 runs, but a total of 258 was still comfortably on the upside of their reasonable expectations.

With a precious first-innings lead of 23, earned by the heroic bowling of Fraser, whose eight for 33 usurped his own eight for 75 in Barbados four years ago as the best English figures against West Indies, the need was to extend the advantage beyond 250. It was a daunting mission

that would mentally have defeated many recent England sides, but the devotion of coach, captain and management to developing a batting unit of cohesion and self-confidence is beginning to bear fruit.

The top five all contributed, no one batting less than 67 minutes, and three substantial partnerships produced 91, 52 and 54 runs. Alec Stewart's second half-century of the game was a notable achievement and he is a man at the peak of his powers, but at last England's batting is that of a team rather than some talented but insecure individuals.

The opening stand of 91 between Atherton and Stewart was inspirational, but its origins owed something to the folly of Lara in denying his two senior bowlers the new ball. The psychological lift of starting the innings against McLean and Benjamin, rather than Ambrose and Walsh, cannot be overstated.

Lara's theory was unfathomable, but it plainly found



Lara can barely hide his despair after his dismissal

more favour with the England batsmen than with two bowlers unaccustomed to such treatment. Memories of 46 all out, and Ambrose's destructive part in it, were erased as that figure was passed in a dozen unthreatening overs. If any emphasis was required, it came yesterday, when 80 minutes of Ambrose and Walsh terminated the England innings.

The prime wicket of Thorpe

went to Walsh during a withering over from around the wicket in which he struck him on the hand, then beat him twice, before inducing a troubled twitch and an edge to first slip. The other five wickets, almost by Trinidad routine, fell to Ambrose.

Wicketless overnight, Ambrose took five for 16 in an eight-over tutorial of the long bowl on a slow and uneven surface. Varying his angle and

his pace, he improved his record in his past five Tests on this ground to 38 wickets for 382 runs.

Holloake had played encouragingly assertively on Saturday evening, but his technique was ruthlessly exposed by Ambrose and the ball that he edged to first slip was the third in short order that he had played with bat alarmingly away from body.

Russell received the type of unplayable grubber that has been a regular fact of life on this pitch and the tailenders were rapidly dispatched by Ambrose.

Half an hour remained before lunch and Campbell did not survive it. The fifth ball of the innings, from Headley, lifted explosively to strike him sickeningly on the elbow and, in the third over, he drove indiscreetly to give a catch to Stewart at second slip.

Lara, eager to impose instant authority, was lucky to negotiate a single over. Caddick beat him three times, but the response, two booming

drives, was ominous. Before lunch, both England bowlers had strayed, giving Williams a start with long-hops that he pulled dismissively for fours.

There was no conviction to Headley's approach after lunch, either. His first over conceded ten runs and he was replaced after five overs for 30, his rhythm worryingly elusive. Caddick, however, proceeded to bowl his most incisive spell of the match and, as Tufnell joined him in the attack, England subtly increased the temperature.

The wicket that they most earnestly wanted, that of Lara, was not long delayed and, almost inevitably, it was taken by Fraser. Eight balls into his spell from the Pavilion End and already back in his first-innings groove, Fraser exploited the uncertainty that had mounted in Lara during seven overs without a scoring stroke.

It was not one of the game's more devilish balls, just good length and off-side line. Lara made as if to play a forcing shot, changed his mind on the downstroke and walked for a thick edge to Russell.

Many within the thin crowd may have identified this as the moment when England won the match, but the next hours restored the balance of this gripping contest. There were overs in which a wicket threatened every ball but West Indies, conscious of a woeful recent batting record, responded tenaciously.

Stuart Williams, struck about the hands and body with punishing frequency, continued to dispatch anything loose with relish before his dismissal. His fifty included ten fours and the first chance he offered, on 58, was a return catch that Tufnell, diving to his left, could only parry one-handed.

SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN

Table with columns for England and West Indies scores, including batsmen names, runs, and bowling figures. Includes sub-sections for 'FALL OF WICKETS' and 'WEST INDIES: First Innings'.

Advertisement for NEC Flat Panel Displays. Features an image of a flat panel display and text: 'SOMETHING BIG IN THE CITY. Low power consumption, reduced footprint, no electro-magnetic interference...'



Rob Hughes laments technological developments that offer an unfair edge to some competitors

Science rears its ugly head on ice

THE Winter Olympic Games are becoming an eerie contest, beyond the natural capability of man or woman. Yesterday morning, we tripped up the mountain, and then down again, frustrated when heavy snow and mist caused the postponement of the Blue Ribband event, the men's downhill, until Wednesday. That, we must accept, the capriciousness of the weather is not in our gift to control.

But down below, indoors, the afternoon took a strange and unnerving turn. The Dutch speed skaters had predicted that revolutionary new equipment would give them a



Romme, sporting the new aerodynamically-improved suit, speeds towards a gold medal and a world record in the 5,000 metres yesterday

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third-of-a-second advantage a lap in the 5,000 metres. And so it proved. A gold medal was claimed by Gianni Romme in a world record of 6min 22.2sec, six seconds — or a third of a second a lap — ahead of his countryman, Rinjke Ritma.

We come to every Games afraid that the pharmacologists will transmute the natural course of events. Here, there is no evidence of that, but clear proof that the technologists are helping competitors to unanswerable advantages. Aficionados of the skating world have been aware for more than a year of the so-called slapskate, a mechanical device that allows the blade beneath a skater's boot to run with greater contact with the ice.

tion with anyone in the world who could afford the equipment; but they kept to themselves a new suit that contains rubberised shoulder and ankle patches designed to improve the aerodynamic performance to such an extent that the Dutch racers' speed is measurably superior: a third of a second per lap, as they almost impudently forecast.

ance on the ice. They were not in sight yesterday as Holland took three of the top four positions.

Others, still too young to be past their prime, lament the fact that they either obtain the new product or wave goodbye to prospects of competing on an equal footing.

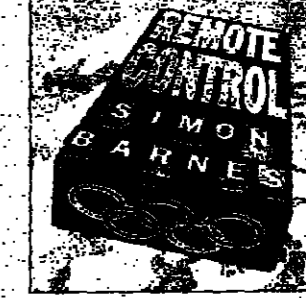
In a sport developed over 3,000 years, are these changes to equipment to be thought of as unfair or just the logical extension of the way that sport, in all its disciplines, has become a monumental business, for the equipment manu-

facturers as well as for those who profit in gold, silver and bronze? Until — unless — the guardians of Olympic competition can grasp the distortion of their motto — swifter, higher, stronger — by something more than what is inside the body and mind of those who take part, we are bound to be confounded by the appliance of science.

Moguls marred by fake folklore and claptrap

When I hear the words "opening ceremony", I reach for my revolver. Why do we have to get sport confused with local folklore at every Olympics? "And then an old fellow starts blowing into his bagpipes and all the gougiers shuffle their feet to the tune of the old cow deal of "Woods for a, not dissimilar occasion, and perfectly apt for the proceedings at the opening ceremony at Nagano. At least I was in the warmth of my own fireside rather than freezing my cods off in the Japanese mountains.

There is far more good sense and hard reality in the legion of Glinolus who dominate snowboarding's parallel universe than in all the empty pieties of all the opening ceremonies that ever were. But then, for once, an opening ceremony did something right and, reluctantly at first, I took my hand from the butt of my revolver. They played the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth. All of it. And sure, there was a load of technological gimmickry, but hell, they played a noble piece of music all the way through and there were crowds of Japanese singing along and I sang along myself. Noble music and



great sport cannot be spoiled. Both are proof against cliché and gimmickry and all the sanctimonious claptrap that the Samaranchs of the world can throw at us. Does the walking passerby-man actually believe what he says? Perhaps he does. Perhaps that is why Samaranch reduces every Olympic opening ceremony to a Moonies mass wedding.

Hackl on course to create history with third gold

GEORG HACKL is on course today as he attempts to win a third successive gold medal in the men's luge. The 31-year-old, of Germany, set the two fastest times yesterday to take a 0.096sec lead into the final two runs. Victory would make him the first competitor to win a hat-trick of Olympic luge titles. "It's nice to have a lead like that, but I've been in this business too long to start cheering at half-time," he said.

a magnificent second run for an aggregate time of 2min 3.96sec.



Hackl brakes on his way to controversial gold in the luge

I saw him again on the downhill mountain of Happono. He gingerly, almost with no trust in the terrain, stepped out of his transport and in no time at all returned to it... the downhill defeated by the weather. The day had started in sunlight, but the very instant the downhill fore-runners had completed their dashing descent, an ugly snowstorm appeared.

There is only one thing that is more absurd, or more offensive, or more patently phoney than the "folklore" staff, and that is world peace. Pole erection and skipping kids are bad enough, but spare me world peace. On came Juan Antonio Samaranch, looking more than ever like his own passport photograph — he is still the only man in the world who does — and wearing a rather dashing Global Dictator's military greatcoat. And talking double-daffy claptrap about world peace.

PRODUCT RECALL TESCO NOVELTY HOT WATER BOTTLES Product Description: A range of novelty hot water bottles where cuddly covers surround a rubber hot water bottle. The range includes: Twenty Hot Water Bottle Edward Bear Hot Water Bottle Huggable Harry Hot Water Bottle Fergus Fish Hot Water Bottle Scooby Doo Hot Water Bottle Valentines Day Hot Water Bottle Tesco has identified a potential problem in the manufacture of the above products. It has been found that a small number of bottles may leak and this could constitute a scalding hazard. As a precaution this product has been withdrawn from sale. Customers who have purchased any novelty hot water bottles from Tesco since September 1997, are requested to return them to any Tesco store where a full refund will be given. The manufacturers are currently reviewing their procedures and undertaking a full investigation. Tesco apologises for the inconvenience this may cause and assures customers of our care and commitment to the highest standards of safety and quality at all times. Free customer helpline 0800 505555 TESCO

TENNIS: HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF AS RUSEDSKI HOLDS SERVE BUT STILL MISSES OUT ON INDOOR TITLE

Ivanisevic again has edge in battle of power servers

FOR Greg Rusedski, history seems to have a nasty habit of repeating itself. In a re-run of last year's final, Goran Ivanisevic got the better of Rusedski yet again to retain his Croatian indoor title 7-6, 7-0 and edge his ranking up a couple of places to No 13 in the world.

partisan crowd cheering for their man from Split. When it mattered, Ivanisevic did not let them down.

That was where the match was won and lost. They had matched each other shot for shot throughout, but when it came to the tie-breaks, Ivanisevic was the sharper player. Rusedski led, briefly, in the second-set decider, but 3-1 ahead he lost the next three points, two on his own service. He managed to fight back to 4-4, but as Ivanisevic moved into a 6-4 lead, he wrapped up the contest with a final ace.

Becker obstructs Henman's hopes

AT THE start of the year, Tim Henman was looking forward to a renewed rivalry with Greg Rusedski at the top of British tennis. Now, though, while Rusedski remains firmly ensconced in the top ten of world rankings, Henman is clinging to a place in the top 20 by his fingertips.

Becker beat Henman in straight sets in their only meeting in the Grand Slam Cup in 1996, but since then Henman's impressive results have been overshadowed by horrendous lapses in form and concentration. Both he and David Felgate, his coach, seem at a loss to explain them.



Ivanisevic plays a backhand volley during his victory

SNOW REPORTS Table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs in place, Weather, Last snow. Rows include Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Munen.



# Chelsea's defensive failings emphasised during defeat in physical London derby Arsenal rekindle championship ambition



ARSENAL 2  
CHELSEA 0

By Oliver Holt  
Football Correspondent

THROUGH the flying feet, the headlocks, the stamping, the finger-pointing and the yelling and screaming recriminations of a London derby at Highbury yesterday, a few seeds of hope were sown on the hitherto stony ground of the no man's land that separates Manchester United from their FA Cup Premier League challengers.

After a weekend when both Blackburn Rovers and Liverpool had failed to take advantage of United's current uncharacteristic uncertainty, Arsenal emerged from a particularly fierce bout of intense squabbling with Chelsea with their burgeoning confidence enhanced and their title challenge revitalised.

They rode their luck, particularly when Steve Bould escaped with a yellow card for hauling down Gianluca Vialli as he bore down on goal, but, despite all sorts of provocation from Mark Hughes, they kept their cool, seized their chances when they came and, with this victory, moved themselves to within six points of United with a game in hand.

The last thing that Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had muttered before he left his own post-match press conference on Saturday was that he hoped Arsenal would win so that his team's five-point lead over Chelsea would remain intact. But the manner in which Arsenal disposed of Rudi Gullit's side yesterday may have changed his mind.

Ultimately, two finely-taken goals from Stephen Hughes, a young man still on signing a new contract because he has been frustrated by his lack of first-team football, condemned Chelsea to their eighth defeat of the season. Yet it was in the titanic performances of Tony Adams and Emmanuel Petit and the continued excellence of Ray Parlour that hope for Arsenal's title chances was really revived. In contrast, Chelsea appeared brittle at the back, a failing that is likely to undermine a consistent challenge.

Arsenal took the lead in the fifth minute when Leboeuf fluffed a back pass to De Goey. Anelka seized on



Stephen Hughes, centre, the young Arsenal midfielder, shows his elation after striking the first of his two goals at Highbury yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

the ball, saw his first shot blocked by the goalkeeper and then dribbled it round him to try to fashion another chance. He was tripped by Duberry, but before Dermot Gallagher could award a penalty, Hughes rifled Charvet's clearance back into the net.

Throughout a first half that continually teetered on the brink of disciplinary anarchy, Chelsea seemed to be trying to make up in isolated bouts of aggression what they lacked in general steeliness of purpose. Dan Petrescu, in particular, seemed shy of the tackle as Petit, Stephen Hughes and Parlour ran the midfield.

Bould's foul on Vialli in the twelfth minute, after Petit had inadvertently freed the Italian striker with a misplaced back-header, only succeeded in increasing Chelsea's ire and Mark Hughes was equally fortunate not to be dismissed for a series of wild challenges. One flying headlock on Nigel Winterburn would not have looked out of place, if it had been executed by Hulk Hogan.

It was Bould's escape, though, that excited most post-match comment. Gallagher suggested that he

had not sent the Arsenal defender off because Gilles Grimandi could have got across to score. Gullit dismissed that argument scornfully. "He has to be sent off for that," Gullit said. "There is no other solution for it. In every country, everywhere, he has to go off. Vialli was right in front of the goal. It was unfortunate for Chelsea because it

changed the whole game. It was a very important incident. We did not have a chance to score a goal. I do not want any favours. I just want the referee to practise the rules. He is an international referee. We lost because of two stupid episodes." The second of those episodes arrived three minutes before half-time, just when things seemed to

have calmed down. Bergkamp curled a free kick from the right to the back post, where Adams leapt high on Bould's shoulders above Michael Duberry and Frank Leboeuf to nod the ball across the face of the Chelsea goal. The rest was simple. Hughes ran in and headed the ball over the line from two yards out.

The tempo stayed fast and furious in the second half and even though Gullit moved wise into the centre of midfield and juggled his attack, Arsenal never looked like conceding a goal. With his new, short haircut exacerbating the effect, Zola looked like a penitent little boy who cannot understand why he is not getting top marks any more, while Newton seemed out of his depth in midfield.

On this showing, Chelsea will not be able to fashion a championship challenge no matter how many points United drop. Arsenal, though, may be a different proposition. "I was nervous that someone was going to be sent off," Arsene Wenger, their manager said, "but once you are two goals ahead, it is easier to be masters of yourself. We are happy because it gets us in with all the other teams behind Manchester United. It is more interesting now."

It may be all but impossible for the panel to feel as certain as it would wish to be regarding the culprit. Whether it would then choose to punish the club deemed responsible, either by a fine or by exclusion from the competition, is another possibility and one that could result in an appeal.

**THE LOST WEEKENDS**

On the five occasions Manchester United lost this season, their main championship rivals failed to make up much ground. From the 15 points on offer, Blackburn, Arsenal and Chelsea each scored nine points with Liverpool and Southampton both looking at home and Chelsea looking away to Arsenal.

DATE	RESULTS	MANCHESTER UNITED	POINTS
September 27-29	Blackburn Rovers 2 Coventry City 0 Chelsea 1 Newcastle United 0 West Ham United 2 Liverpool 1 Sheff Wed 2 Arsenal 1	17-15	15
October 4-6	Arsenal 2 Manchester United 2 Blackburn Rovers 3 Everton 2 Liverpool 4 Tottenham Hotspur 0 Chelsea 2 West Ham United 1	17-15	15
October 11-13	Manchester United 1 Crystal Palace 2 Newcastle United 1 Liverpool 2 Tottenham Hotspur 1 Arsenal 1 Southampton 1 Chelsea 0	17-15	15
October 18-20	Manchester United 1 Blackburn Rovers 1 Blackburn Rovers 0 Coventry City 0 Chelsea 1 Newcastle United 0 West Ham United 2 Liverpool 1 Sheff Wed 2 Arsenal 1	17-15	15
October 25-27	Manchester United 1 Blackburn Rovers 1 Blackburn Rovers 0 Coventry City 0 Chelsea 1 Newcastle United 0 West Ham United 2 Liverpool 1 Sheff Wed 2 Arsenal 1	17-15	15
October 31-November 2	Manchester United 1 Blackburn Rovers 1 Blackburn Rovers 0 Coventry City 0 Chelsea 1 Newcastle United 0 West Ham United 2 Liverpool 1 Sheff Wed 2 Arsenal 1	17-15	15

## England A lose advantage

ENGLAND A, sent to Sri Lanka to gain experience, were taught lessons here yesterday that did not go down too well. There may be a case for extra prep from their masters, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, who studied at the schools of hard knocks at Lahore and Faisalabad.

On the third day of the second international, umpiring decisions went against England that the players believed denied them the wickets of Russel Arnold and Pubudu Dassanayake at an early stage in their innings. The two Test players went on to occupy the crease for more than four hours. Arnold scored 71 and Dassanayake was still there at the close, with 51 to his name. Their half-centuries were not applauded by the England fielders.

After two good days — and an extremely fine maiden century by Ben Hollis — England brought their first innings lead of 89, England will now do well to win today. Sri Lanka lost only three wickets yesterday and now lead by 106.

## CRICKET

FROM SIMON WILDE IN MATARA

Two "let-offs" for Arnold — appeals for leg-before and a catch at the wicket — were arguably marginal, the one involving Dassanayake, also for a catch at the wicket off Giles, was plainly not to England's eyes. Nash ran up the pitch during his appeal and, after it was turned down, had words with the batsman.

**SCOREBOARD FROM MATARA**

SRI LANKA A: First Innings 171, IN C. Hollis 51, A. Gurusawarna 51, A.F. Giles 4 for 50.

Second Innings

A. Gurusawarna b Coles	31
R.P. Arnold c James b Giles	79
R.P. Dassanayake not out	51
R.M. Jayawardene b Giles	13
N. Nazari not out	13
Total (5 wickets)	133

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-67, 2-130, 3-168.

BOWLING: Hollis 11-2-26-0; Hollis 14-5-30-0; Giles 32-15-112-3; Giles 10-4-24-5; Coles 24-5-51-1; Easton 3-0-0-0; Maddy 3-0-4-0.

ENGLAND A: First Innings 64

S.P. James b Banderathilaka	34
M.V. Knight b D. Perera	0

"walking" — although that is a pastime few modern players indulge in.

Sri Lanka's second-wicket pair were not separated until shortly before tea as England allowed themselves to lose focus. Giles eventually removed Arnold with the aid of a fine reflex catch by James at short leg and, in the last session, he accounted for Jayawardene, who chopped the ball on. Coles, Giles's spin partner, had taken the first wicket of the day, beating Gunawardene by flight.

Hendry, attempting to capture a seventh Masters title, contributed the season's three highest breaks — 98, 120 and 70 — but also made mistakes that, at his most confident, would be unthinkable. A long pink gave him a nervy opening frame, but Williams replied with a 64 clearance in the second after the Scot, leading by 30 points, overcut a

## Hendry has the early edge

STEPHEN HENDRY'S soul-searching, caused by 11 months without a tournament win, looked likely to end when he enjoyed the better of the early exchanges in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

Hendry, whose form invariably peaks on visits to snooker's premier invitation event, at times threatened to run away with the final, but, by the end of the afternoon, held a 5-3 advantage over Mark Williams. The six-times world champion played conservatively, having been beaten 9-2 by Williams in the final of the British Open last season, but, when in full flight, he was ominously smooth.

Hendry, a master of composure in such circumstances, needed only five to collect the £15,000 first prize.

Hendry's refusal to panic under pressure again proved invaluable when he recovered from 5-4 down to defeat Ken Doherty 6-5 in the semi-finals on Saturday. "I can't help but be happy with that," Hendry, who compiled breaks of 131, 80, 122 and 68, said. It was his third consecutive victory over Doherty.

## SNOOKER

By PHIL YATES

straightforward blue to a balk pocket.

Further Hendry misjudgments followed, but for the most part, they went unpunished. Indeed, Williams was fortunate to win the closing frame of the session when he fluked an awkward snooker on the last red and cleared the pink after Hendry twice found contact beyond him.

Even so, Williams still required seven of the remaining 11 frames to prevail, while Hendry, a master of composure in such circumstances, needed only five to collect the £15,000 first prize.

Hendry, a master of composure in such circumstances, needed only five to collect the £15,000 first prize.

Hendry, a master of composure in such circumstances, needed only five to collect the £15,000 first prize.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Els holds Frost at bay to keep home fires burning

**GOLF:** Ernie Els won the South African Open, his home championship, for the third time yesterday, recording a final round of 69 for a 72-hole total of 273. David Frost, his countryman, was three strokes behind in second place with Patrick Sjolund, of Sweden, third on 281 after a closing 69. Els, ranked No 3 in the world, went head-to-head with Frost as the field, despite its strong international calibre, dropped away without making much of a challenge.

### Gilchrist races to century

**CRICKET:** Australia, aided by an exhilarating century from Adam Gilchrist, gained a resounding seven-wicket win over New Zealand in Christchurch yesterday in the first of four one-day internationals. Chasing 212 for seven, Australia reached their target with 114 overs to spare.

### Syed back with a vengeance

**TABLE TENNIS:** Matthew Syed, the leading England player, won the Welsh Open yesterday with an overwhelming 21-1, 21-11 success over Alfredo Carreras, of Spain. Syed, 27, from Surrey, was soundly beaten by Kalin Kravanc, the world No 16, in a European League match against Greece last week, but was back to his best in Cardiff. Nicola Deaton, from Derbyshire, the English champion, collected her fourth Open title of the season by beating Linda Radford, from Essex, 21-12, 21-14 in the women's final.

### Hall confirms superiority

**BADMINTON:** Darren Hall, who extended his record of English national titles to nine last week, captured his second Friends Provident British Grand Slam championship of the season at Kirkham yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). His 15-4, 15-2 victory in the final came against Michael Elshof, 20, unseeded and playing in front of his home Lancastrian crowd in his first Grand Slam final. The women's singles title was retained by Kelly Morgan, the top seed, who defeated Sandra Watt, an unseeded Scot, 11-2, 11-4.

### Brett's peers left trailing

**BOWLS:** Nicky Brett, from Huntingdon, came through a strong field to win the Manchester Unity national under-25 singles title at Nottingham yesterday, when he overwhelmed Alan Croft, of Hull, 21-2, in a disappointingly one-sided final. Earlier, Brett had squandered a 15-2 advantage before beating David Bolt, from Durham, 21-18 in the semi-final. Jim Baker and Neil Booth, of Ireland, and Wynne Richards and Greg Harlow, of England, reached the final of the Irish International Masters Pairs in County Antrim yesterday.

## HOCKEY: SOUTHGATE SUFFER AFTER EARLY PRESSURE BRINGS SCANT REWARD

### Sharp Guildford prove a cut above

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

GUILDFORD'S relegation fears were allayed yesterday with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Southgate in the National League premier division.

Southgate were denied the rub of the green on their home ground, but lacked the sharpness of Guildford, who survived spells of pressure either side of their goals.

Guildford led 2-1 at half-time, goals from Hall and Moseley having been answered by Carolan. They went further ahead in the 46th minute, when Hall hit his second. Jennings then converted a short corner in the next minute and the Guildford defence held firm to send their opponents down to fourth place behind Cannon, Canterbury and Reading.

### MacDonald shines as Slough race on

By CATRY HARRIS

SUE MACDONALD showed no signs of the rigours of last month's training camp with the Scotland World Cup squad in San Diego when she scored four goals for Slough, the women's National League premier division leaders, in their 6-2 victory over Sutton Coldfield.

Slough are the only unbeaten side in the and are firm favourites to retain their title. Their complete dominance of the championship has switched attention to the runners-up spot and the promotion battles in the lower divisions.

Eight points adrift of the leaders, Clifton's hopes of mounting any sort of challenge were thwarted by Otton, who closed the gap on the

## RUGBY LEAGUE

### Wakefield grateful for Howell miss

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Wakefield Trinity..... 24  
Widnes Vikings..... 22

THE first division promises its most vibrant competition for many years and a compelling encounter at Belle Vue did not disappoint yesterday, as Wakefield Trinity gamely retrieved a 20-12 deficit at half-time to register an opening league victory. It also offered evidence that Wakefield Trinity and Widnes Vikings, for all their disappointment, are capable of reaching the top five play-off, a welcome innovation this season.

A confident start usually helps to any campaign and Wakefield overtook Widnes ten minutes from the finish and hung on to their win, as

### Hall confirms superiority

Howell missed a fourth penalty from 40 metres for the visitors that would have levelled the scores.

Yet while they started like an express train, with early tries by the wide-running Whakarau and dynamic Fuller, Wakefield went off the boil for an hour before pressure was applied in the final quarter and Widnes, whose defensive frailties had earlier been exposed, buckled.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Tries: Whakarau, Fuller, Hughes, March, Steele, Casey (4); Widnes: Price (5); 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40.

WAKEFIELD TRIUNITY: M. Howell; R. Walters; G. Casey; M. Lane; J. Wray; D. Mycock; P. March; A. Proctor; R. Southernwood; J. Hughes; W. McDonald; S. Whakarau; M. Fuller; Substitutes: R. Hestley; G. Price; C. Roca; C. Hughes; P. Hicks.

WIDNES VIKINGS: J. Selousby; D. Cross; J. Bloom; S. Wilson; P. Smith; P. Howell; P. Errey; G. Miller; J. Archer; N. Meehan; P. Harris; K. White; T. Marshall; Substitutes: R. Litherland; P. Mylv; J. Beers; G. Corrigan.

Referee: R. Smith (Castleford)



FA Carling Premiership: Strugglers hit rich scoring vein to upset odds away from home

Tottenham rally to a cause worth fighting for

HALF the world expects Christian Gross to fail as the Tottenham Hotspur coach and the other half appears to want him to — even some of the whippersnappers are right within White Hart Lane, where talk of disgruntled players continues to bubble incessantly to the surface.

Well, if the Tottenham squad really do want to see the back of him, they have a funny way of showing it. Gross's demands for discipline and "hart verk" are said to be at the core of dressing-room unhappiness, but his team's remarkable victory at Ewood Park on Saturday was built entirely on such prosaic virtues.

As Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, ruefully observed, "even" David Ginola could be seen tackling back on occasions and, if this win owed nothing to Tottenham traditions, it was proof enough that the club has the manpower to avoid relegation. The Tottenham squad had spent three nights cooped together in the North, stewing over their shambolic defeat at Barnsley, and the time for reflection appears to have done them the power of good. Safeguarding the coach's position might not be the motivation for some of the players, but, between Wednesday night and Saturday afternoon, they appear to have discovered a cause worth fighting for.

Tottenham were aided and abetted by a strangely lifeless display from Blackburn, whose frustration grew deeper once they had discovered that Manchester United had again slipped up at Old Trafford, but the home side's lethargy should not detract from Tottenham's hard work, with the return of Allan Nielsen and the hugely impressive David Howells allowing Gross to pick an industrious midfield. It was not pretty, but it was pretty effective.

They should have taken the lead as early as the eighth minute, when clever passing by Nielsen and Ginola put Nicola Bertè through on goal, but the Italian pulled his shot wide.

He had to wait half an hour for the chance to make amends, but there was no way he could miss when the opportunity fell to him in the 36th minute. Ruel Fox's cross from the right was helped on by Nielsen and Bertè slid in a low shot

as Flowers and McKinlay threw their bodies at his feet.

Blackburn woke from their slumbers in the second half and Colin Hendry was unlucky to be denied by the post on one occasion and by the officials on another, the ball appearing to cross the line when he rose to meet a Stuart Ripley corner.

They had left it too late, however, and, while Hodgson could fairly argue that Tottenham's two goals in the final couple of minutes produced a scoreline that did not reflect the course of the game, Gross was entitled to respond by claiming that Armstrong could have finished with a hat-trick.

The striker has endured a miserable couple of years at White Hart Lane and needed two operations to repair his ankle ligaments. He took his goal superbly after 89 minutes, however, and has the chance to re-establish his claim to be a Premiership striker to be feared, with Jürgen Klinsmann sidelined for three weeks.

Fox, another impressive performer, finished off the scoring in the final seconds when, with the Rovers defence disintegrating, he cut inside from the left wing and hit a rasping shot across Flowers. The Blackburn goalkeeper was not at his best for either goal, but he may have been hampered by badly bruised ribs. His place in the England squad is in some doubt. One definite England withdrawal is Les Ferdinand, who was carried off with a knee injury.

The irony is, of course, that Ferdinand's likely replacement would have been Chris Sutton. The rebellious striker's case was sung long and loud by the home crowd and then by his manager, who claimed that he had produced a "masterful display of target play". The situation with England, however, appears irredeemable.

Glenn Hoddle seems to have made the decision that Chris pulling out of the B squad automatically rules out future selection for England," Hodgson said. Even in defeat, here was proof that it is the country's loss as well as Sutton's.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): I. Flowers (1); K. Norris, S. Hendry, C. Hendry, G. Coll (sub: M. Duffin, 85min) — S. Ripley, T. Shanahan, W. McKinlay (sub: L. Bannan, 82), J. Wilcox — C. Sutton, D. Duff.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): E. Baarsden — S. Carr, S. Carr, R. Vigg, C. Wilson (sub: G. Brady, 71) — R. Fox, D. Howells, N. Bertè, A. Nielsen (sub: S. Cameron, 87) — D. Ginola, L. Ferdinand (sub: C. Armstrong, 78). Referee: G. Barber



Armstrong celebrates scoring the second Tottenham goal against Blackburn at Ewood Park

Brian Glasville

The signing of Matt Jansen, 20, the remarkable forward from Carlisle United, could not have been better-timed for Crystal Palace and he could play some part in this South London derby.

Palace are pitifully short up front and the millions paid for Atilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano, the Italians, have been wasted so far. Both seem permanent casualties. Injured, too, are Neil Shipperley, the centre forward, and Paul Warhurst, who can play up front if required. Palace rival Tottenham Hotspur as a kind of convalescent home.

Bruce Dyer scored an extraordinary hat-trick a couple of weekends ago against a Leicester City team whose previously powerful defence suddenly seemed turned to stone, but last weekend,

Crystal Palace

Crystal Palace (probable 3-5-2): M. Miller — M. Edwards, A. Lincham, H. Henderson — J. Smith, V. Jansist, A. Roberts, T. Brown, D. Gordon — M. Bart, B. Dyer

Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (probable 4-4-2): N. Sedman — K. Carrington, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Yorliss — M. Hughes, N. Andley, S. Castledine, P. Four — J. Small, C. Cox

Referee: K. Burge

Leeds United

Leeds United (probable 4-4-2): M. Easton — M. Easton, A. Linton, H. Henderson — J. Smith, V. Jansist, A. Roberts, T. Brown, D. Gordon — M. Bart, B. Dyer

Sheff Wed

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable 4-4-2): M. Sedman — K. Carrington, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Yorliss — M. Hughes, N. Andley, S. Castledine, P. Four — J. Small, C. Cox

Referee: K. Burge

Fowler discovers loneliness of a fallen Anfield idol

HE WAS an isolated figure as he slipped quietly out of Anfield on Saturday. There was no smile as he walked through the foyer, no pat on the back, no social drink waiting in the bar, just a little glance and he was gone.

"Has Robbie Fowler left already?" somebody asked. "Oh yeah, straight away, no hanging around. Are you surprised?" No. He was probably being sensible, putting a miserable afternoon behind him with an appropriately hasty exit, stage left.

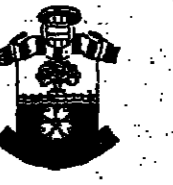
Behind him, people were picking over the pieces of a defeat that asks painful questions of Liverpool's title challenge, of defensive frailties, of an attitude that lacks the ruthlessness of old — and, most painfully of all, of Fowler himself. He was once the darling of The Kop, nicknamed "God" in the dressing room, but no longer.

Michael Owen — younger, smaller, quicker — has allowed him out of the way, out of supporters' affections and out of the spotlight. As the season has progressed, Owen's star has risen steadily, his confidence and strength growing by the week, but, weirdly, it seems to have done so at Fowler's expense. Last week, for example, Owen was called up by his country and threatens to become the youngest England player this century; Fowler was dumped, overlooked even for the B squad. The two should be blossoming together, inspired by the other's brilliance to yet greater heights, but, for whatever reason, it is not happening.

Not for the first time, the contrast between them was absolute. Owen was electric, fearless, running around Southampton defenders, almost under them, creating havoc for opponents; chances for teammates, scoring both Liverpool goals. As he tired in the second half, so the fortunes of his frustrated team ebbed. Fowler could not pick up the baton. A man with a blessed left foot, he was playing instead with two left feet, little more than a passenger.

Sitting on the bench, watching it all with what must have been mystified resignation, was Karlheinz Riedle, a European Cup winner last season with Borussia Dortmund; he cannot get a game now, no matter how many shots Fowler scuffs or how many cul-de-sacs he blunders into. A quick, strong, experienced target man, the German would surely be a perfect foil for the prodigious Owen — better certainly than a struggling, depressed Fowler.

But on the bench he stays while Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, gives his troubled star time to rediscover himself. Evans has been commendably kind, but his



LIVERPOOL 2 SOUTHAMPTON 3 By Peter Robinson

patient, sensitive handling is starting to look misplaced; Messrs Shankly and Paisley, to name but two, would surely have put a soothing arm around Fowler's shoulder, whispered something succinct and inspiring in his ear and left him to sort himself out in the reserves. They, too, would have been spitting mad on Saturday. Losing to Southampton, at home — unthinkable. Four defeats at Anfield this season already, in Leicester City, Barnsley, Manchester United and now Southampton — not the stuff of champions. Evans took it on the chin, but being a good loser is not what winning is all about.

Which is to take nothing away from Southampton. They were without Palmer, their best player this season, and lost Oakley; Davies and Lundekvam at steady intervals with, respectively, leg



Owen: electric running

ankle and Achilles tendon injuries, yet still won well. First put them ahead with a penalty after eight minutes, conceded by a bone-headed lunge at Oakley by James, the goalkeeper, then Liverpool pulled themselves level when Owen, crowning a dazzling first-half display, equalised from close range before the half-hour.

True, Liverpool searched for the winner, but with Owen tiring and Fowler misfiring, the cutting edge was not there. Southampton scored twice in five minutes as the final whistle approached, first Ostenstad and then Hirst muscling their way through a conspicuously frail defence, before a scramble in injury time ended with Owen heading in his second. It was an afterthought, but a telling one, all the same.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James — J. Jones, D. Maitland, P. Best, S. Harford — S. McManis, P. Hoob, J. Carragher (sub: D. Murphy, 59min), D. Louch (sub: P. Sanger, 55) — M. Owen, K. Fowler

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. McKevie, L. O'Brien, R. Dwyer, 48, J. Todd — D. Hughes, K. Richardson, M. Oley (sub: A. Williams, 74), J. Bursford — K. Davies (sub: E. Chalmers, 65), D. Hirst

Referee: J. Winter

Dublin manages to rise above mediocrity

RON ATKINSON, the former Coventry City manager, and Gordon Strachan, the present incumbent, chewed the fat for an hour after the game at Highfield Road on Saturday. Champagne, apparently, accompanied the conversation and Atkinson was peeved that it should be interrupted. "We were just having a chat," he said. "We'd have still been talking if I hadn't had to come and see you lot," he told the assembled press representatives, whose patience had been sorely tested. Quite what Big Ron and wee Gordon had had to chat about remained a mystery. "I don't need to go into detail," Atkinson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said. Perhaps it was about the poor offering that Coventry and Wednesday had produced for the paying public; maybe it involved how they were considering refunding the admission fees to the suffering spectators.

Or could it have been that Atkinson apologised to Strachan for leaving him in the lurch when he moved suddenly, and briefly, "upstairs" in November 1996? Did he admit that he was sorry for all the millions of pounds he had wasted? Or could it have been that Strachan had said "nae problem", laughed a little and drunk a toast to good times ahead? Whatever happens, come May, both their sides should comfortably retain their FA Carling Premiership status.

It could have been a time for

discussing what might have been, and what will be, in the privacy of Highfield Road's inner sanctum, but it barely disguised the dress that had gone before.

Atkinson may have signed autographs and posed for photographs for the young Coventry fans, Strachan may have praised to the hilt his side's continued revival, yet they were living

in cloud-cuckoo-land if they really thought that the crowd had been enthralled and entertained.

At least Dion Dublin, the Coventry striker, enhanced his claims for a starting place in the England line-up to play Chile at Wembley on Wednesday. He is not young in years, nor fleet of foot or oozing in skill, yet he maintains a



COVENTRY CITY 1 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0 By Russell Kempson

young in years, nor fleet of foot or oozing in skill, yet he maintains a

vibrant presence and will run until the last ounce of energy has seeped from his substantial frame. If Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, needs an emergency central defender, he can handle that, too.

"Dion" deserves the chance," Strachan said. "The pressure has been on him today, but he has produced again. He's as good as ever, if not better, and he can play at centre back or as a striker. He's confident wherever, it doesn't really matter to him."

Dublin settled the scrappiest of scraps, littered with impressive passes and carelessly frittered possession, in the 76th minute. Hedman's clearance ballooned almost the length of the field and Newsome grappled Dublin to the ground. Dublin got to his feet, ambled to the spot and sent Pressman the wrong way.

Atkinson and Strachan, former teacher and former pupil, raised their glasses to the future, spoke sparingly to the media and went on their way. Dublin might have impressed, marginally, prior to his possible England bow, but it was otherwise much ado about nothing at Highfield Road on Saturday.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M. Hession — R. Mason, P. Shaw, G. Brown, D. Burrows — P. Taylor, G. Downing, T. Schofield (sub: C. Bevan, 65min), M. Hall — D. Dublin, D. Haddock

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Pressman — J. Nelson, J. Newsome, D. Walker, A. Hinchey — P. Best, S. Harford, T. L. Anderson, G. Vigg (sub: J. Magilton, 85); M. Patridge — B. Carson, P. de Caestecker

Referee: G. Ashby

Advertisement for Valentine's Day by Burberrys. Includes a form to write a message and a table of prices for different message lengths.

Advertisement for William Hill betting. Features a large 'FREE £10 BET' offer and a table of odds for various football matches.



FA Carling Premiership: Old Trafford draw overshadowed by poignant tribute to Busby Babes

Dalglish left to ponder perversity



NEWCASTLE UNITED 0 WEST HAM UNITED 1

By Keith Pike

JUST as pets sometimes appear to adopt the mannerisms and demeanour of their owners, so Newcastle United now seem moulded into the image of their manager.

Newcastle, as Dalglish conceded, were left "huffing and puffing", the supporters growing frustrated at the inability to turn possession into chances, let alone goals.

One incident summed up the predictable and occasionally petty nature of their display. Batty, who would have got away with a late challenge on Lotnas, childishly postured himself into a booking by refusing Uriah Beattie's request to walk five yards for a chat.

Then, in the 28th minute, Andersson beat Forrest with a low shot that rebounded to safety off the base of a post. In between times, Lazaridis had unleashed a fantastic shot from around 35 yards that flew over Given and into the top corner.

Once Lazaridis had scored, Newcastle had neither the pace to open West Ham up down the flanks, nor the strength to unsettle them through the middle. They lost at home to a frequently travel-sick side, having been the only team to win an FA Carling Premiership match at Upton Park this season.



The Bolton defence tries to close down Gary Neville, the Manchester United defender, as he fires in a shot during the 1-1 draw at Old Trafford

Spirit of '58 lives on as football unites in memory of Munich

OLD TRAFFORD has had the best of all possible worlds already this season. It has seen mighty Juventus crumble. It has witnessed the crushing of those who dare to attempt a domestic challenge. It has thrilled to the full flowering of a new generation of brave young players carrying the club forward with dignity and dedication.

In this stadium where sentiment and reverence for the past linger longer than at any other ground, the tragic heritage that has helped to make Manchester United one of the best-supported football clubs in the world was paraded in front of 35,000 fans and turned into an uplifting celebration of everything that is good and noble and lasting in the game.

Between three o'clock and 3.15, in those minutes when the action would normally be in its first throes, the crowd in its first flush of excitement and the teams already looked in their rivalry, the supporters of Manchester United and Bolton Wanderers watched spellbound as a ceremony to commemorate those who died in the Munich air disaster 40 years ago unfolded before them.

It coursed through the United and Bolton players in the ceremony that preceded their FA Carling Premiership match and overshadowed what followed.

That United could only draw with their lowly Lancashire neighbours seemed insignificant in the circumstances.

Gary Neville, an honest, self-effacing young man who could have been plucked straight out of one of those sepia photographs of the Busby Babes, put it best. "The ceremony meant a lot to me," he said. "When you have grown up with all the tradition and history, you know that what you see here today comes from that tradition. We owe everything to those lads and Sir Matt Busby."

The supporters watched as old men, some of them on walking sticks, some of them helped by friends and family, formed two lines facing each other in front of the South Stand. They were the United and Bolton players who had contested the 1958 FA Cup Final a few months after the crash, a match that United lost 2-0.

And everyone there, especially the corporate arrivistes who had looked up from their meals in their glass-fronted boxes and torn themselves away from the rugby on television, saw a wonderful example of the enduring bond that football can forge amid the present-day climate of ephemerality and greed.

They saw a representative of Red Star Belgrade, the last team that the great United side played in 1958, walk forward to place his tribute. They saw Sir Bobby kneel, then take a step back and bow his head. They cheered again as Loftus concluded the ceremony by putting his wreath on the centre spot.

Some had worried that the Bolton supporters might ruin the minute's silence, but as the champions linked their arms around each other's shoulders, their heads bowed, all enmity was forgotten in 60 seconds of respect and remembrance. Finally, after the referee's whistle had signalled the end of the silence, there was one last moment to treasure. The United supporters stood as one to applaud their Bolton counterparts, high in a corner of the stand, for the respect they had shown.



MANCHESTER UNITED 1 BOLTON WANDERERS 1

By Oliver Holt Football Correspondent

Somehow, even when the wreaths were taken away and the game began, the spell never quite lifted. Both Neville and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, refused to make excuses afterwards, but United seemed preoccupied by what had gone before, their minds wandering from the task in hand, their passing wary, the intensity of their game weakened.

They missed the suspended Nicky Butt keenly in the centre of midfield and only when Bolton, who could have gone ahead in the second minute when Schmeichel saved from Blake, took the lead in the 59th minute through Taylor's scrambled goal, did they really rouse themselves.

United hit the woodwork three times, notably when Cole's glancing header cannoned off the inside of a post. Six minutes from the end, though, Todd Branagan made a hash of clearing a cross from Scholes and Cole nudged the ball over the line.

Neville, who missed a couple of scoring chances, blamed himself for the lost points. In him, and others like him, the integrity and the dedication of the Busby Babes lives on. After Saturday, it may have infused the spirit of others, too. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel - P. Neville, G. Neville, E. Pollack, D. Lee - D. Beckham, P. Scholes, R. Green - E. Strickland (sub: H. Bagg, 67th), A. Cole, G. G. S. Solari. BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Branagan - N. Cox, C. Fothergill, A. Todd, G. Beagson - J. Pollock, A. Thompson, P. Frawley, S. Sallis - N. Blake, B. Taylor (sub: D. Hutchinson, 82). Referee: P. Lodge.

Wilson convinces all but himself

WILL the real Danny Wilson please stand up? One minute, the Barnsley manager was emphasising his faith in his club's ability to avoid relegation, the next he was puncturing the mood with a self-deprecating remark about Alex Ferguson losing sleep at welcoming Barnsley to Old Trafford for the FA Cup fifth-round tie next Sunday.



BARNSELY 2 EVERTON 2

By Nick Szczepanik

Wilson said. Yet Barnsley have to beat "the likes of Everton" if they are to avoid relegation. Having gained four successive home wins before Saturday and, given their poor away record, home advantage must be made to count.

failure to add to Forth's first goal for the club, a free header, at the far post from a cross by Ward. Duncan Ferguson was allowed to start and finish the move that brought Everton's equaliser five minutes before half-time and worse followed when Grant's cross drifted in to give the visiting team the lead early in the second half. Then, after 62 minutes, Ward's shot rebounded from the crossbar for

Hasselbaink taught another lesson

A WEEK ago, Leicester City had preserved the unlikelyst of victories over Manchester United when Teddy Sheringham bungled the kind of opportunity that forwards of his calibre relish. Here, in the final minute, Leeds United failed to gain the draw that, in the second half, they had just about merited.

To take a penalty in such circumstances away from home requires a certain imperviousness. To a Giles or a Lorimer, it would have been a clinical exercise. To Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who, in the build-up to the game, had admitted that he still had much to learn, this was too much. His jerking run betrayed a lack of self-belief and he stabbed his shot wide.

Leeds's top scorer, Hasselbaink is attracting interest from Holland - for whom he has yet to play at any level - and, according to George Graham, the Leeds manager, never misses a penalty. There was no consoling him at the end, for he had also failed to score right at the start, a misplaced header by Elliott giving him the opportunity to beat the stranded Keller. Parker, by contrast, had displayed the assuredness necessary to take a penalty at the end of the first half, giving Leicester a deserved lead.



LEICESTER CITY 1 LEEDS UNITED 0

By Ivo Teaman

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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Nermal Campbell, of Costa Rica, tackles Joe-Max Moore, of the United States, during their Concacaf Gold Cup match. Photograph: John G Mabango

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP logo with a horse head and the text 'CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP'.

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Large vertical advertisement for Nationwide Leagues. It features the text 'Nationwide Leagues', 'Promotion ticket may be cost for France', and 'Hartlepool'. There is also a logo for 'Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUES'.

GOALSCORERS section listing players and their goals. Includes names like Alan Shearer, Michael Owen, and others.

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POOL CHECK section listing pool players and their scores. Includes names like John Dunning, Peter Dinklage, and others.

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Nationwide League: Birmingham look lively as their Midlands rivals fall at home

Promotion ticket may be costly for Francis

Birmingham City..... 1 Middlesbrough..... 1

By DAVID POWELL

TREVOR FRANCIS, the Birmingham City manager, described Middlesbrough as "a Premier team", but what does that mean? Are they a Crystal Palace, a Bolton Wanderers or a Barnsley? Are they a Nottingham Forest, a Middlesbrough or a Sunderland? The transit lounge between the FA Cup Premier League and the Nationwide League first division is full of familiar names and faces.

The three who went down last season head the queue to return and the three who went up hold boarding passes to travel back in the opposite direction. The transit lounge is neither Premiership nor Nationwide League. It is Premier-One class: a place for those too good to stay down and too bad to stay up.

Middlesbrough, if Francis is correct, are guaranteed passage to try again at the higher level. "I predicted, at the start of the season, that Middlesbrough and Forest would be the two top and nothing has changed my thinking," Francis said. Not even this match against his fringe promotion candidates in which Middlesbrough were second-best.

How different the outcome might have been had the NolOs swapped sides. Bryan Hughes missed a hat-trick of close-range chances in the opening 20 minutes, with his team one goal up. Paul Merson, on a day when the supply to him was poor, still managed to test Bennett, the Birmingham goalkeeper, with three shots firm and true.

Merson warmed up for the



Merson: set up equaliser

England B international against Chile tomorrow with a performance of powerful running, accurate shooting and goalmaking. He set up Festa for a superbly struck 38th-minute equaliser, McCarthy having put Birmingham ahead in the third minute. "Too good for this league," Francis said of Merson.

McCarthy had scored after Beker passed across his own area. McCarthy seemed third-favourite to reach the ball in a race with Schwarzer, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, and Vickers, but his outstretched leg did the job.

Hughes then fired two shots across goal, with only Schwarzer to beat, before blazing one over. "I should have buried that third one," Hughes said. "I made good contact, and got there before the defender." Was this the same man who, in a match-day programme interview, was so peppy about scoring four goals last month that he set himself a target of double figures for the season?

In this contest involving the two most secure defences in the division, Middlesbrough might have taken the points if, in the 88th minute, Merson had passed to the unmarked Beck, instead of shooting. That rare misjudgment perhaps cost Middlesbrough the leadership, but Bryan Robson, the manager, was content. "I am pleased we got something out of the game," he said. "We started very slack."

Or, as Francis put it: "In that opening period, some of our football was absolutely brilliant. We carved them open time after time." Dele Adebola, Francis's £1 million midweek signing from Crewe Alexandra, came on as substitute for the last half-hour and pleased his manager.

"His presence was felt," Francis said, adding that he was now only two players short of a promotion squad. Whether it would be adequate for the Premiership, should Birmingham come with a late run, he declined to say. Probably not. More a transit lounge team, unless serious money is spent.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): Bennett - J. Bunn, S. Bunn, G. Akin, S. Charlton (capt), M. Johnson, T. Hines - J. McCarthy, M. O'Connor, G. Menden, B. Hughes (sub), P. Merson, T. Hines - N. Foster (sub), D. Adebola, P. Franko. MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): Schwarzer - S. Beker (sub), C. Henderson, J. G. Foster, S. Vickers, V. Klose - C. Hyatt, M. Thomas, M. Mullen, A. Townsend - R. Merson, M. Beck. Referee: M. Potts.



Hyde, right, the Watford playmaker, is challenged for possession by Galloway, the Gillingham midfielder

Watford's screen test falls flat

Watford..... 0 Gillingham..... 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

LIGHTS, cameras, action. The scene was set at Vicarage Road yesterday for Watford to extend their lead to six points at the top of the Nationwide League second division, with satellite television dropping in to record the occasion, but they fluffed their lines. Call it stage fright or whatever, Watford failed to perform.

At least Gillingham did, with Ade Akinbiyi scoring two goals in similarly stylish fashion to take his tally to 16 for the season. Watford are still sitting pretty, such is the huge gap back to the chasing pack, but they cannot afford too many more bad days at the office.

Of perhaps greater concern is the pitch they share with Saracens. The rucks and mauls of the past months have chewed up the surface and the liberal number of divots hardly encouraged a neat, incisive passing game.

Like it or lump it appears to be the motto, something that Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, has reluctantly accepted. "Since Saracens arrived, I have always maintained that the pitch would not become an issue," he said. "As part of the arrangement, we knew that one of the sports would suffer and that it would most likely be the football. But Saracens are near the top of their league and we're top of ours so, good pitch or not, both teams are doing pretty well."

Taylor also conceded that his side had "never got going" - a fact that, considering they

had won their previous three games, was a shade surprising. Where had the momentum gone? Although Kennedy worked tirelessly and Hyde weaved his way around the midfield, often with ease, they lacked a penetrative edge to trouble a tight-marking defence.

When they did get through, which was mostly in the second half, Watford saved well from Kennedy's nicely struck shot and Mooney thundered an angled drive against the crossbar. Had either effort gone in, it would have been more than Watford deserved.

Gillingham's success was based on the unselfish graft that has seen them emerge from a 13-match sequence without a win to record six games without defeat. The spectre of relegation has surely been shrugged off. Victory yesterday was also

achieved without any of the discipline that has led to their having eight players sent off this season. Though tempers became a touch frayed after the interval, not a player from either side was booked.

Akinbiyi struck first in the 21st minute, running on to Butler's pass, and repeated the trick as the game entered stoppage time, this time almost casually curling the ball past Chamberlain.

"It was a good display by us, but I still think Watford will win the league," Tony Pulis, the Gillingham manager, said. WATFORD (4-4-2): Chamberlain - R. Taylor, T. Hines, T. Mooney - K. Gibbs, M. Hyde, R. Johnson, P. Robinson - J. Lee (sub), D. Thomas, T. Hines - G. Menden (sub), S. Palmer, A. P. Kennedy. GILLINGHAM (4-4-2): M. Weston - B. Akin, A. Parnock, G. Baines - A. Hinchey, N. Southern (sub), J. Corbett, T. P. Smith, M. Galloway (sub), M. Bryant, S. J. Pittman - A. Akinbiyi, S. Butler (sub), I. Oronsaye, S. P. Reference: R. Funderick.

Jones spares the blushes

Notts County..... 1 Shrewsbury Town..... 1

By BILL EDGAR

KEVIN LYNCH could have been forgiven some nervousness before refereeing this game at Meadow Lane, where Phil Richards, a fellow official, was knocked to the ground by a Notts County fan earlier this season. Around 50 home supporters did invade the pitch on Saturday, but this time it was only to celebrate their side's equaliser four minutes into injury time.

Seconds later, at the final whistle, their relief would have begun to turn to disappointment at the realisation that County's ten-game winning streak in the Nationwide League third division had been ended by a Shrewsbury Town side whose past ten league matches included just one victory and a humiliating defeat at Doncaster Rovers.

the bottom club. County's 13-point lead at the top, however, should ensure an immediate return to the second division in a season when eight of the league's ten newly-relegated teams have high hopes of promotion.

Shrewsbury, one of the two exceptions, looked for a long time as though they would defy pre-match odds of 8-1 and emulate the surprise victory achieved in August by Lincoln City, whose controversial late goal had prompted the attack on Richards. Gareth Hargreaves's first league goal gave them a seventeenth-minute lead that was nearly doubled when Devon White, the Shrewsbury striker, headed against his former club's crossbar.

Gary Jones, having earlier had an effort cleared off the line, drove home the late equaliser from a tight angle to steal a point with his thirteenth goal of the season. Sam Allardyce, the County

manager, said: "I'm a little disappointed, but it was our first off-day in 14 matches. Shrewsbury lifted their game today and we couldn't get our game together at any stage."

County are miffed at the absence of official recognition of their achievements in January. A maximum 15 points from five league games was not enough for Allardyce to be named the division's manager of the month, the award going instead to Sammy McIntyre, whose Macclesfield Town side managed only 13 points from six games in that period. A probable manager-of-the-year award for Allardyce should prove to be ample compensation.

NOTTS COUNTY (4-4-2): Ward - M. Bechthold (sub), C. Dudley, J. Jones, G. Strickland, J. Richardson - H. Henderson (sub), A. Hughes, M. J. Smith, G. Menden, S. P. Reference: R. Lynch.

Ball faces confidence crisis

Portsmouth..... 0 Nottingham Forest..... 1

By MEL WEBB

IT WAS a humdrum sort of a day at Fratton Park. All the match officials remained conscious throughout, the home supporters supported, there was not an obvious whiff of the boardroom shenanigans that have made life interesting on the South Coast lately. True, they had a new manager, who was at the same time an old acquaintance, to greet Oh yes, and Portsmouth lost another Nationwide League first division game. Nothing new there.

It is amazing what the arrival of a fresh manager will do to a struggling club, especially one as well known to the resident gallery as Alan Ball. Portsmouth struggled under Terry Fenwick, but now written large into every yell of encouragement from

the crowd was the clear feeling that now Ballie was back everything would be all right. If only it were that simple.

Quite what Ball can do to prevent Portsmouth from plunging down the chute signposted "Second division - beware approaching cloggers" is not easy to tell. Forget tactical acumen, disregard inspired selection: Ball's most potent weapon in the coming weeks will be his power to inspire. In the first half, his charges looked worthy of being on the same pitch as Forest, but after the visitors had taken the lead early in the second half, Portsmouth were exposed for what they were - possessing some skill but totally lacking in confidence.

"What I saw today was a lot of hard work by people who were frightened," Ball said. "It can get to you, but you mustn't let it. You have to be brutally honest with yourself - if you keep moping about, you'll win now!"

Forest do not mope about, but then they have no need to. They were rarely inspired, but still won more comfortably than the scoreline suggests. They went back to the top of the first division courtesy of a goal by Chelle, who scores only slightly more often than Kenny Dalglish smiles. The centre back was in the right place to smuggle the ball over the line after the impressive Van Hoolijdonk had flicked on a corner by Thomas in the 52nd minute.

It was his first goal since he scored against Bayern Munich in the quarter-final of the UEFA Cup nearly two years ago. "I caught it flush," he said, grinning. "Straight off the end of my toe." PORTSMOUTH (4-4-2): A. Knight - R. Pritchard, A. Whittaker, A. Austin, M. Vachon - J. Carter, C. Foster, D. Hillier (sub), S. Iqbal, G. McLaughlin - J. Durrant (sub), J. Nobi, S. S. Chelvan. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): D. Rogers - D. Lytle, C. Cooper, S. Christie, A. Barrass - D. Johnson, A. Johnson, G. Thomas, T. Soriano - K. Campbell, P. van Hoolijdonk. Reference: C. Webb.

Ferdinand pulls out with knee problem

By MATT DICKINSON

LES FERDINAND has pulled out of the England squad to face Chile at Wembley on Wednesday because of a knee injury. The Tottenham Hotspur striker was carried off during his club's 3-0 victory over Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, but Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, will not call up a replacement.

"Les was only coming along to get him back in the fold rather than play and we have enough cover in that position anyway," John Gorman, the England assistant coach, said.

There is also doubt over the fitness of Tim Flowers, the Blackburn goalkeeper, who had X-rays on bruised ribs after a collision with Sol Campbell on Saturday. He will have a scan this morning to see if there are any broken bones.

Should he be forced to withdraw, Shaka Hislop could be promoted from the B squad. That would represent a remarkable change in fortunes for the Newcastle United goalkeeper, who was dropped by Kenny Dalglish, his club manager, for the game against West Ham United on Saturday after refusing to sign a new contract.

Hislop, who turned down the chance to play for Trinidad and Tobago, is stilling because he fears that he will lose his place in the long term to Shay Given.

"I was very disappointed when I found out I had been dropped, but I suppose I can understand that the manager has to plan for the future," Hislop said yesterday as the England B squad met up in Birmingham in advance of the game against Chile B at The Hawthorns tomorrow.

"I want to take my time to make a decision about the contract and I've exercised my right to do so. The manager has exercised his right to put Given back in the team."

Nick Barnby, the Everton forward, and Darren Eadie, the Norwich City winger, have also withdrawn from the B squad with injuries, but will not be replaced.

Gary Mabbutt, 36, has been told that he is no longer wanted by Tottenham after almost 16 years at the club. The popular defender, club captain for the past ten years, was given the news at a meeting with David Platt, the director of football, last week.

Mabbutt's contract runs out at the end of the season, but he will be allowed to leave before then if an offer comes in. "It would be a huge wrench to leave Tottenham at any time, even if it was in ten years' time, as I've enjoyed myself so much here but it has to happen at some stage," Mabbutt said. "I will consider any offers that are made, including a move abroad."

Hartlepool held up by double strike from Roberts

Lynne Critchley charts the storm-tossed fortunes of a lowly club battling to confront a range of foes both old and new

Hartlepool men, in bygone days, found themselves victims of the notorious press-gangs that supplied crews for Lord Nelson's Navy. Years later, in smoke rooms in the taverns of neighbouring towns, it was touted that the chances of returning from Hartlepool on a Saturday night were on a par with those of a labeled French monkey. Such was its reputation, people had to be press-ganged to go there.

All that has changed. Today, the only remnants of the press-gangs can be found at the multimillion-pound Hartlepool Historic Quay - and at Victoria Park, home to Hartlepool United FC, which lies opposite.

It is not the threat of the French that has created another victim of the press-gang at the football club, it is the threat of a Belgian, Jean-Marc

Bosman, Mick Tait, the manager of Hartlepool United, has recently had to sell Jon Cullen, his leading goalscorer, to Sheffield United, for £250,000, rather than risk losing out on a transfer fee at the end of the season, because of the Bosman ruling.

Tait has spent the past few weeks scouring non-league clubs, acquiring new players, bringing them on, then selling them on to bigger clubs in one of the bare necessities of life for lower league managers. The future of a club may depend on it. The 122 derby games that Hartle-

pool and Darlington have played have witnessed many changes. There are still some Hartlepool supporters who remember the Victoria Ground before it was blitzed by the Kaiser's 134 Zeppelins, in 1916.

The club's stand was obliterated, to be replaced by a "temporary" wooden structure, which lasted until 1986, when it was levelled in the aftermath of the fire at Bradford City.

It was only four years ago that the gaping space was replaced by a smart new stand and, above it, as the teams fought out this 2-2 draw on a sunny but cold Saturday afternoon,

seagulls circled and ships' rigging stood proud as a reminder of the past and the present prosperity.

Salvos were exchanged between rival fans providing vociferous support for their teams, but, on the pitch, the first-half battle was won by Hartlepool, who, having slipped to twelfth in the Nationwide League third division after a spate of draws, looked to be sailing back towards a play-off position.

Their goals came from Ian Clark and Jan Ove Pedersen, a Norway international whose loan spell from SK Brann ends on St Valentine's

Day, which will break the hearts of his many supporters.

Where once only local lads did tread, a sprinkling of foreign nations is now in evidence. It was the big Canadian centre back, Jason de Vos, who made a difference for Darlington in the second half, when he was moved into attack.

Probing long balls began to cause problems for the Hartlepool defence and Darlington's renewed vigour led to two goals for Darren Roberts. The equaliser came in the penultimate minute, much to the dismay of the locals.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED (4-4-2): M. Holland - D. Knowles, G. Dawes, M. Barron, R. Lucas - J. Pederson, D. Ingram, R. Bentley, I. Clark (sub), S. Hoolahan, S. Hoolahan - P. Connor, S. Hoolahan. DARLINGTON (4-4-2): D. Phelan - S. Shaw, J. De Vos, P. Bennett, M. Barrard - M. Oliver (sub), P. Robinson, T. H. Hines - G. Hayter (sub), C. Swift, T. D. Roberts. Reference: G. Cain.

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# Disappearing chicken could egg on imitators

I think the future of rugby, I didn't like the look of it for a start, there was a huge blue chicken emblazoned all over the French end of the pitch at the Stade de France. A fine piece of artistry by the ground staff, but no wonder they hadn't had time to defend the playing surface themselves. All that blue paint, not to mention the enormous English rose sportily picked out at the other end... it was a miracle that they had found time to put the posts up.

Then both the chicken and the rose disappeared. This was an embarrassing moment for someone who watches television for a living (and is supposed to know about these things). I mean, I know about

super-imposition and colour key-whatsit. I even know a bit about those compromised twins, Harry and Harriet. But we'd seen the French team warm up on top of the chicken. Chalkens you can walk on don't just disappear. I hoped that nobody would notice, but to a man, woman and baby, they turned round: "How did they do that?" I said I'd make a call.

Which is how I come to know that the machine that Ernest Two, the host broadcaster, was using is called EPSIS. EPSIS is used for "visual advertising" in Australia, but was impressed with this use of it. I have a nasty feeling that blue chicken could be the start of something big.

Anyway, enough of technical wizardry. According to Mark Durdin-Smith, Skys rugby anchorman, this was the day when French rugby woke up in a new home. Far more important was what he did not say — this was the day when the Five Nations Championship, or a significant part of it, woke up in a new home — Skys. By and large, they made it impressively welcome.

For the build-up, Durdin-Smith was joined by Stuart Barnes, Bill Beaumont and Thierry Lacroix. As the disaffected France back seemed to be supporting England rather than France, this was not quite as revolutionary as it might have been, but it made for a lively and good-humoured session, with Beaumont, in particular, looking and sounding much happier as a studio pundit than he ever did as second voice on the BBC. At one point, the ever-frightened Barnes described Jeremy Goscutt as "the most abused and misused talent in English rugby for a decade". Back came Beaumont with: "I thought that was you, Barney."



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

What the build-up unexpectedly lacked, however, was any significant attempt to capitalise on the impressive archive that Sky has built up. Miles Harrison duly began his commentary with "and so we come to that annual tangle down the spine, the start of the Five Nations Championship". Perfectly true, but if the build-up had contained five minutes of highlights from England's second game against the All Blacks, those spines could

have been tingling a good half an hour earlier.

For their first Five Nations game, Harrison and Barnes had an outstanding match. They may not offer the instant poetry of Bill McLaren, but they did deliver their stated aim of instant journalism. All the talking points were there — the performance of the England front row, the line-outs, the wasted kicks — and if Barnes had placed himself firmly in the Guscon camp beforehand, he did not dissent when Harrison observed that the Bath centre "was not on the pace yet". As for impartiality, I suspect they surprised even themselves with praise for the French game that was both genuine and generous.

Not that they will have been particularly impressed. Even without the embarrassing loss of pictures for two minutes and the initial problem in getting Will Carling's lips to match his words, there was something almost amateurish about the ITV highlights package. Carling is neither very good as a presenter nor very bad, but he is entirely wasted. If there is only time for five minutes of analysis, surely the former captain should be answering the questions rather than asking them. ITV Sport should learn from its success with Martin Brundle.

Earlier, Rider had said Grandstand would not be flashing up the score from Paris until the end of Ireland v Scotland, which seemed un-

'Here was the issue for Stevenage; how to handle the post-boogie let-down without crashing'

## Triumph of mind over matter

On Saturday afternoon, ten minutes before kick-off at Stevenage Borough's famous venue of Broadhall Way, tiny mascots Sean and Hayley — decked out in orange-and-white diagonal stripes — gamely recreated what is now described simply as "the Grazioli goal". A man with a roving mike put them up to it. Meanwhile, a couple of thousand supporters, shuffling in the raw cold, looked on in silence, unsure whether to laugh or cry.

All right, Hayley, the MC said. "Off you go, Hayley, with little pink knees, tripped off to the corner and pretended to kick a swerving ball into the box. She did this very well. A bit like Zola. Anyway, we all watched the imaginary arc, trying to get excited about it. Could it? Would it? And then the MC dropped a real ball in the goalmouth for Sean to head into the net. Yes, it went. Jolly good. Mmm.

A small cheer greeted the goal and little Sean raced up the pitch in mock celebration (forgetting to put his arms up). "We'll do the Crawshaw goal next time," the MC promised, retrieving the ball. And that was, unfortunately, the end of the excitement, for the rest of the afternoon. I suppose he had judged that triumphalism (even in this humdrum form) is not only bad manners, but not quite down-to-earth enough. Plus, of course, there is only so much delirium that a football crowd can stand.

Here was the issue for Stevenage on Saturday. How to handle the post-boogie let-down without crashing. Ordinarily, you see, this Vauxhall Conference match against Yeovil Town would have been something of a red-letter day. Yeovil are several places above them in the Conference, yet Stevenage won 2-1. The gate was a respectable 2,897; the half-time jackpot was nearly £1,500. To cap it all, it didn't rain.

Yet who could feel satisfied with this bread-and-butter match, after the raspberry pavlova of the past two weeks?

### LYNNE TRUSS



The day after the Lord Mayor's Show was the club's feeling, as summed up by the manager, Paul Fairclough.

And if that means picking a path through emotional debris with a hangover, I fear it was absolutely spot-on. Turning up rather late for the party ("I didn't miss anything"), I found only metaphorical crumbs on the carpet at

### Who could feel satisfied with this bread-and-butter match after the raspberry pavlova of the past weeks?

Stevenage and a club barely sentient after its fortnight of ecstasies.

Stevenage, you see, had been promptly deserted by the media circus just me and three regulars and two dozen new chairs) and were also so discombobulated by exhaustion that they didn't know what to do with themselves. Lord Mayor? What Lord Mayor? What's he talking about? Are Newcastle losing too? What day is it? No wonder that for the first 30 minutes, dead from the shirt-pads up, they played like men who had heard good football described, but had never actually seen it.

"Wake up!" the crowd yelled. Gary Crawshaw ran about; Neil Trebble kept outrunning Yeovil's defenders, but then pausing to think: "Who am I?" Alas, they were not down-to-earth, except in the sense of falling over.

For a long time, it seemed likely that Steve Sitt's seventh-minute goal for Yeovil had put the lid on it. Even Des Gallagher, the goalkeeper who played so brilliantly at St James' Park on Wednesday, seemed unable to hold the ball in a grip.

At one point, he alarmingly re-enacted the famous episode of Dopey and the soap in Snow White. All in all, one found oneself yearning treacherously for the superior footballing merits of — well, little Hayley and little Sean.

When Stevenage finally awoke after 35 minutes, it was sudden, as though someone had belatedly thrown a switch. A goal by Jason Solomon on 39 minutes was followed two minutes later by a grabbed chance by Crawshaw. Though the burst of confidence was short-lived, it was sufficient. No goals were scored in the second half, not even when Crawshaw took a late penalty. Thanks to

making them repeat "I love this", and he'll soon find out whether its effect endures. "You could see it at the St James' Park match," he says, proudly. "Shearer is about to take a free kick, and there's two of our lads in the wall, and they're mouthing the words 'I love this'."

Well, no wonder Alan Shearer's sang-froid ran a bit thin, face-to-face with such New Age malarkey. "I love this"? Hardly the sort of team talk to appeal to Mr Kenny ("Dog-in-Manger") Dalglish. But back home, post-Newcastle, Fairclough says he's been experimenting with even more mind games. To "bury the Newcastle experience", he's asked the lads each to pick a personal moment from the Cup run, picture it as a snapshot and treasure it.

This is... unbelievable, surely. This is... (whisper it)... a bit like therapy. Yet one by one on Saturday, before the match, Fairclough persuaded the team to make declarations about what they've achieved. "They all did it, it was amazing," he tells me.

I sniff and nod, enraptured. "They each said: 'I acknowledge that what I have done against Newcastle is... this.' I blink, gulp. Can this be true? A football team? "I was gonna cry, like," Fairclough admits. "So am I," I want to say (perhaps adding, "So, Paul. Are you married or anything?")

So Stevenage are not yet fully down to earth and perhaps never will be. Fairclough says he genuinely hopes for a pre-season match with Newcastle — proof enough that he's orbiting Pluto on low oxygen. But if it works on the pitch, it works on the pitch.

After all, positive thinking alone gained him three points on Saturday. And who wants to be down-to-earth anyway? Get more children to recreate your famous goals. After all, you couldn't get more down-to-earth than Kenny Dalglish and look where it's landing him.



After the Lord Mayor's Show, the Cup exit left this fan struggling to face up to reality. Photograph: Gill Allen

## SPORTS LETTERS

### West Indian pitch battles

From Mr Neil Kimberley  
Sir, As one of the poor fools who made their way to Jamaica for the first Test, I was utterly disappointed not only in the abandonment of the game, but the lack of flexibility exhibited by both the West Indies cricket board and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

While a Caribbean trip is always nice, a visit to Kingston is, at best, a challenge. Then to receive an arrogant snub from the cricketing supremos in their refusal to play any cricket was in the worst traditions of a business not responding to its customers.

How dare they invite everyone to a Test, cancel the match, and then not even attempt to play, say, a one-day game on a matting wicket as compensation. The response of the Jamaican Tourist Board, in contrast, was damage control at its best. We were invited to a reception at Jamaica House and then sent on a free bus trip to a resort on the north shore. These people understood the disappointment and made an effort to keep the downhearted tourists busy, and build their business with a sampling of what Jamaica had to offer. The contrast between the

cricket authorities and the tourist board could have not been greater.

Yours etc,  
NEIL KIMBERLEY,  
59 Scott Place, Brewster,  
New York 10509, US.  
Neil.Kimberley@verizon.com

From Mr Andrew J. Smith  
Sir, After the debacle of the first Test I was interested to read Michael Henderson (January 30), who contrasted the pitch preparation in the West Indies with the pitch that Peter Marrow is preparing at Old Trafford for the summer Test against South Africa, which will be the result of turling, seeding and cutting over a two-year period.

While not wishing to deride the skill and dedication involved, I couldn't help thinking of what goes on at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. This stadium is often used twice a week during the winter for Australian rules football, culminating in the grand final in early September. At this stage the square often resembles a ploughed field (contrary to what I had imagined, the square is not protected by a rope, which the "footy" players carefully avoid). As soon as the premier-class trophy is lifted, the groundsmen get to work, and by the end of October the square is being used for first-class cricket (Sheffield Shield)

### Bath's final provides clear answer to Cotton

From Mr P. R. Shortell

Sir, The Heineken Cup final between Brive and Bath showed that Fran Cotton's vision for English rugby (report, January 20) is academic and arid. He aims to get the best players into a small number of teams in the hope of thereby raising their game. He has already overlooked me, the spectator, who wants passion and involvement. It is now clear he has forgotten that players need passion too.

If his scheme goes through, I shall of course

do nothing. That is to say, I shall not go to the games, nor watch them on television. I shall go down to my own club and run the line for the 4th XV, hoping that someone will drop out and let me in. Maybe others will do the same — it's called belonging.

Yours faithfully,  
P. R. SHORTELL,  
81 Hales Road,  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL52 6SR.

### NFL offers example

From Mr Bruno J. Clifton

Sir, Mr Bray (Sports Letters, February 7), contrasting the standards of refereeing in American football and association football, expresses a viewpoint I have long held as a regular follower of the NFL televised games.

It is not only the number of officials, the co-ordination and communication between them and the spectators that is far superior to our national winter game, but also the clarity for all and sundry of the time spent in actual play and of infractions of the rules of the game.

Here, there is frequent "injury time", sometimes lasting five or six minutes, decided on solely by the referee with no need for any explanation.

Not only are wrong calls for offside marring the game, but also absurd and inconsistent decisions for fouls: the blatant obstructions by defenders as the ball runs out of play at the byline, which are never blown up for a foul as anywhere else on the pitch; the ridiculous interpretations of handball as warranting a free kick, or penalty; and the almost sacrosanct status of the goalkeeper who cannot be challenged in

the goalmouth without incurring a foul.

It is not the control or regulation of the match that concern its administrators (they cannot properly apply their latest tinkering with the rules as regards the four-second holding of the ball by the goalkeeper), but obsession with so-called "bungs", no matter how long ago these took place, with alleged fixings of matches, with betting, and so forth.

Money matters, since mercenary considerations now predominate among players, chairmen, directors, administrators and the lucrative businesses of kit suppliers, advertisers, etc. Nearly all rule changes over the past 30 years or so have impoverished the game... and I have not mentioned the coloured cards system either.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUNO J. CLIFTON,  
8 Pen-y-Bryn Road,  
Cynced,  
Cardiff CF2 6QS.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**  
What did Robbie Fowler, above, make of his omission from the England football squads for this week's internationals against Chile? David Maddock finds out.

■ **Wednesday**  
Has speed skater Nicky Gooch won Britain's first medal at the Winter Olympic Games?

■ **Thursday**  
Did England begin their run-in to the World Cup finals with victory over Chile at Wembley?

■ **Saturday**  
Football Saturday: the FA Cup fifth round match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.



# Five Nations Championship: Telfer makes immediate impact with narrow victory in Dublin

## Scotland take first tentative steps on road to recovery

HE MAY only have had eight days in which to turn a dispirited team into a credible international side, but that is the sort of challenge that Jim Telfer relishes. Perhaps that was why there was a certain inevitability that Scotland would win on Saturday. Sport has a funny habit of playing tricks like that.

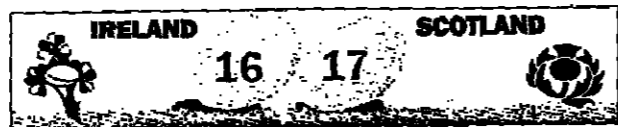
His relief that the first stage of the recovery plan had successfully been completed with victory over Ireland was tangible, but there was no escaping the reality that this was a game bedevilled by mediocrity, one light years removed from the approach to which both publicly aspire. These were two teams woefully short of confidence and skill — and how it showed.

That Ireland contrived to lose is a damning indictment of their fallibility. That Scotland won by the narrowest margin to continue a remarkable sequence against the Irish — they have not lost at Lansdowne Road since 1982 — was testament to their greater professionalism and coolness and a simple, if limited, game-plan to which they adhered.

In contrast to Telfer's understandable satisfaction, Brian Ashton, his counterpart, was dumbstruck by the ineptitude displayed by his own players, whom he castigated after the match for a catalogue of basic mistakes, their kicking away of possession and tactical naivety. Perhaps his expectations are too high and he is asking players to play a game that is basically alien to them.

It was a lack of control at half back that contributed to Ireland's undoing. Humphreys was a mixture of the sublime and the ridiculous, while Brian O'Meara's kicking from hand lacked depth, putting his side under unnecessary pressure. When Ireland did get width on the ball and get behind Scotland lines, Hickie and Wallace, the wings, repeatedly cut inside rather than test their opposite number on the outside.

Despite all that, Ireland did create sufficient chances to



FROM MARK SOUSTER IN DUBLIN

have won comfortably. What they could not do was finish them. Question marks must also be raised about Keith Wood's captaincy. With a five-point lead after 58 minutes, Ireland were awarded a penalty, but instead of kicking three points, Wood opted for a scrum on the Scotland line.

The tactic had worked in the first half when, after a succession of dropped scrums, Armstrong was penalised for diving in, but on this occasion, on the fifth scrum, the unhappy Graham was substituted by David Hilton. Scotland's scrum immediately held firm and, when a back-row move went wrong, the Scots were able to raise the siege. It was the turning point. From then on, self-belief coursed through them and, for the last ten minutes, Ireland were starved of the ball.

In the aftermath of a victory that even he conceded had been Ireland's for the taking after 65 minutes, Telfer knows that there is a huge amount of work that needs to be done. Yet, having reached rock-bottom against Italy, the only way now is up. Telfer knows

that one win does not make a season, especially with France arriving at Murrayfield in a fortnight. "We will take the players down tomorrow then build them back up again. We came back from the jaws of defeat. We'll pick the side on Monday and there may be changes. I learnt a lot about the front row today."

It was that area which proved to be Ireland's strength and their undoing. Scotland struggled mightily in the set-pieces, where Paul Wallace gave Graham a torrid afternoon, not all of it legally. Indeed, it was Wallace who conceded the penalty that won Scotland the game after 72 minutes. Already warned by André Watson, the referee, Wallace was penalised for boring in and not binding correctly on Hilton. Chalmers, whose calm authority throughout was a key component in the Scotland performance, kicked the second of two penalty goals from in front of the posts.

SCOTLAND: Ireland: Telfer (captain); Conboy; Humphreys; Penney; Stiles; Humphreys 2 (7/20). Dropped goal: Humphreys (45). Scotland: Telfer (40); Penney; Blair; Shearer 2 (14/20); Chalmers 2 (65/73). SCORING SEQUENCE: Ireland first: 0-3, 3-3, 3-6, 10-6, 10-11 (half-time), 13-11, 16-11, 16-14, 16-17. IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish); P M Wallace (Saracens); K M Mackie (Blackburn); M G McCall (London Irish); A Healy (St Mary's College); D G Humphreys (London Irish); B T O'Meara (Cork Constitution); R Conboy (Newcastle); K G M Wood (Harlequins, captain); P S Wallace (Saracens); N J Popplewell (Newcastle); S G Clarke; P S John (Saracens); M E O'Keefe (London Irish); D S Conroy (Blackburn); K Dawson (London Irish); V C P Costello; St Mary's College; 65; E R P Miller (Leicester). SCOTLAND: R S Shearer (Blackburn); D L Linn (London Scottish); G A Jones (Leicester); A G Stanger; Hinch; A V Tall (Newcastle); G P J Townsend (Northampton); K M Logan (Worcester); C M Chalmers (Melrose); G Armstrong (Newcastle, captain); G Graham (Newcastle); D F Gordon (Newcastle); M J J Wilson (Bath); G C Bullock (West of Scotland); M J Jones; W W Stewart; E I Watt; D W Dundas; HFF; S D Holmes (London Scottish); P Wallin (Newcastle); Referee: A Watson (South Africa)



Ashton: dumbstruck



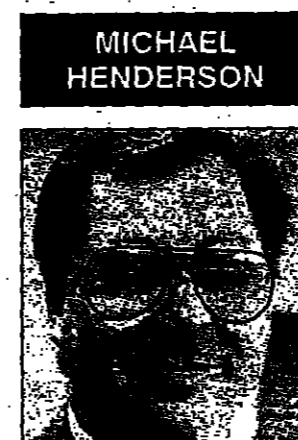
Townsend tries to find a way through the Ireland defence during the 17-6 victory at Lansdowne Road. Photograph: Andrew Redington/Allsport

## Ashton and friends have little to cheer

IT WAS impossible not to feel a spasm of sympathy for Ireland on Saturday, even if one's natural feelings were lessened by the knowledge that their players were complicit in this latest, horrible defeat. There were times in the second half, when the water torture of their relentless scrummaging paralysed Scotland near their own line, that victory seemed a short step away and it made reflection on the eventual defeat all the more painful.

The misery was set graphically in Keith Wood's long face as he faced the prospect of another long winter slog through the foothills of the Five Nations Championship. "I suppose you would think we would be used to defeat by now," the Ireland captain said, "but we're not. It's bloody awful."

For reasons of self-respect, as much as anything, Ireland could not afford to lose. If we cannot beat the Scots, their followers reasoned, then we cannot expect to beat anybody. And what a chance they missed! After a first-half performance of numbing ineptitude, they were unrecognisable in the opening minutes of the second period, but, sadly, proved unable to convert the loose change of possession into the hard currency of points.



At Lansdowne Road

His judgment that progress is being made, that "we are playing better rugby in more areas than we were before" will not by itself earn him the

confidence, still less the support of a public that is growing tired of permanent failure. There must always be more to rugby than winning, even in the super-duper, new professional game, but without a victory to savour now and then, the Irish game will atrophy.

However gamely people tried to subdue it with the anaesthetic that comes in a long glass with a big creamy head, the mood in Dublin on Saturday night was of despair. International weekend in such a titanic city has a character all of its own. The match is the big show in town, the country even, and, when performers forget their lines, it takes some forgiving. Frank Malone, up from Limerick, put it nicely: "Rugby is a unique sporting culture, not just a sport. The championship is the apex of the game, but, down

along the line, there are plenty of people playing for the fun of it. After Christmas, when you get to the long, dark days of January, you look forward to the first game of the championship and to renew old acquaintances. They've come here from all over — Galway, Mayo, Cork — and it makes for a unique flavour." And, he might have added, they went home yesterday without much of a tale to tell.

Yet the hope of renewal lives on. Spotting the name in The Irish Times of Martin Cahill, a prop from his club, Bohemians, who played for the Ireland Under-21 team on Friday, Malone said: "I think he will go on to play for Ireland, and the Lions. Everybody who has played for the Bohos, or who is associated with the club, will see his name in the paper today and feel a glow of pride."

### AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES SEE INDOOR TENNIS IN THE PARK

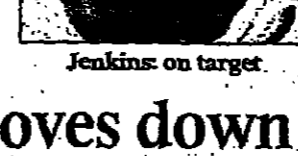


Advertisement for indoor tennis in Battersea Park from February 23 to March 1, 1998. Text includes: "Thirty-two of the world's top tennis players, including Greg Rusedski and Petr Korda, who won the Australian Open, above, and Tim Henman, will be vying for honours — and prize money of more than \$815,000 — at The Guardian Direct Cup, the biggest of the UK's four ATP tournaments. It is to be held indoors in a 10,000 square metre complex at Battersea Park." Includes logos for The Guardian Direct Cup, Dunlop, and other sponsors.

## Wales need to recapture flair to fulfil ambition

Wales.....23 Italy.....20 BY GERALD DAVIES WALES felt happy that they succeeded where the other two Celtic countries have failed this season, but this victory should not tempt anyone into believing that this performance is remotely good enough to encourage optimism for Wales' first Five Nations Championship match against England in two weeks' time. This is one way of looking at the outcome of the disappointing game.

There is another view that says Wales deserved to win against what Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, thought were very worthy opponents. "They deserve to be in the European championship," Bowring said. "This was an important game to win, especially one that turned out to be so close. Italy are more streetwise than they were a year ago."



Jenkins: on target

It was an excellent contest to have in preparation for the Five Nations Championship. There's a tough defence. We need, in the next two weeks, to concentrate on how we retain the ball and to use it wide out. If there was a pattern, which was not immediately discernible, it was based on attempting to bludgeon into submission an opposition that refused to knuckle under. Indeed, the best tries came from the team that was seriously in difficulty in both the main areas of possession.

Italy lost the lineout 22-10. Their scrum, by the second half, was under constant strain and was forced repeatedly to retreat at speed. Yet, for all this, Wales could not

## European final is carrot for Cardiff

BY A CORRESPONDENT THE TIMES Students European Rugby Championship semi-final between University of Wales, Institute of Cardiff (UWIC) and Swansea University will take place today at Cyncoed, Cardiff. It could lead to another Cardiff v Toulouse European cup final to emulate that of two years ago, when the senior clubs of those two cities met in the inaugural Heineken Cup final.

## Bentley moves down to secure his future

JOHN BENTLEY, an England international against South Africa little over two months ago, is to go on loan from Newcastle to Rotherham (David Hands writes). It will mean moving down a division, but Bentley, 31, has had little first-team rugby in the new year and is anxious to re-establish his credentials.

The Yorkshire-born wing was one of the personalities of the successful British Isles tour to South Africa last summer and resumed his England career after a nine-year gap against Australia in Sydney in July. He was a member of Clive Woodward's national squad for the series against the three southern-hemisphere countries, but appeared in only one, against South Africa at Twickenham on November 29. Since then, Newcastle, lead-

ers of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, have preferred to rotate Jim Naylor, Va'anga Tuigamala and Tony Underwood on their wings. However, Rotherham, third in the second division, may offer Bentley a platform for his talents. "I'm told I still figure in Newcastle's plans, if form or injuries dictate," Bentley, who was linked with Rotherham before he joined Newcastle in 1996 from Halifax Blue Sox, said. "I have voiced my concerns to Rob Andrew [the Newcastle director of rugby], because with no games I can't get match-sharp, but this arrangement seems to suit everybody."

Small advertisement for England and Wales Hospitality Package, including contact information for the British Isles tour.







SAILING

# Cayard steals lead to challenge Smith's record

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

LAWRIE SMITH'S 24-hour monohull distance record of 480 miles is in imminent danger of being overtaken as the Whitbread Round the World Race crews hurtle through the Southern Ocean towards Cape Horn in the sort of classic downwind blast for which this race is famous.

The crews are wet and cold but are enjoying every minute of the 25-knot south-westerlies, which are gusting at up to 45 knots and are set to remain in force for some time.

The new leader, *EF Language*, skippered by Paul Cayard, was averaging 17.9 knots over 24 hours, leaving her 19 miles short of Smith's 449-mile record, which *Silk Cut* set on the second leg from Cape Town to Fremantle.

*EF Education* suffered rig damage on Saturday and is now limping towards southern Argentina, where repairs will be carried out. Christine Guillou, the skipper, reported: "The crew are extremely disappointed at the turn of events, but we will nurse the

rig until we reach Ushuaia [at the southern tip of Argentina] so we can give the rest of the race our best shot."

But the other boats are all averaging speeds in the high teens. On *BrunelSunergy*, the habitual backmarker, a new highest speed was reached when the Judel/Vrolijk-designed hull touched 35.6 knots in a 45-knot squall.

On *Innovation Kvaerner*, which is still in seventh position, 105 miles behind *EF Language*, the crew briefly went into survival mode as the breeze gusted at up to 68 knots. "I have just experienced some of the toughest days ever on sea," Knut Frostad, the skipper, reported. "We had only a jib and a mainsail with three reefs in when it became really ugly. The jib ripped in pieces while we tried to take it down in 60 knots."

Few injuries have been reported. On *EF Language*, Josh Belsky, a crewman, needed nine stitches, or "staples", in his calf after he was crunched against a stanchion by waves

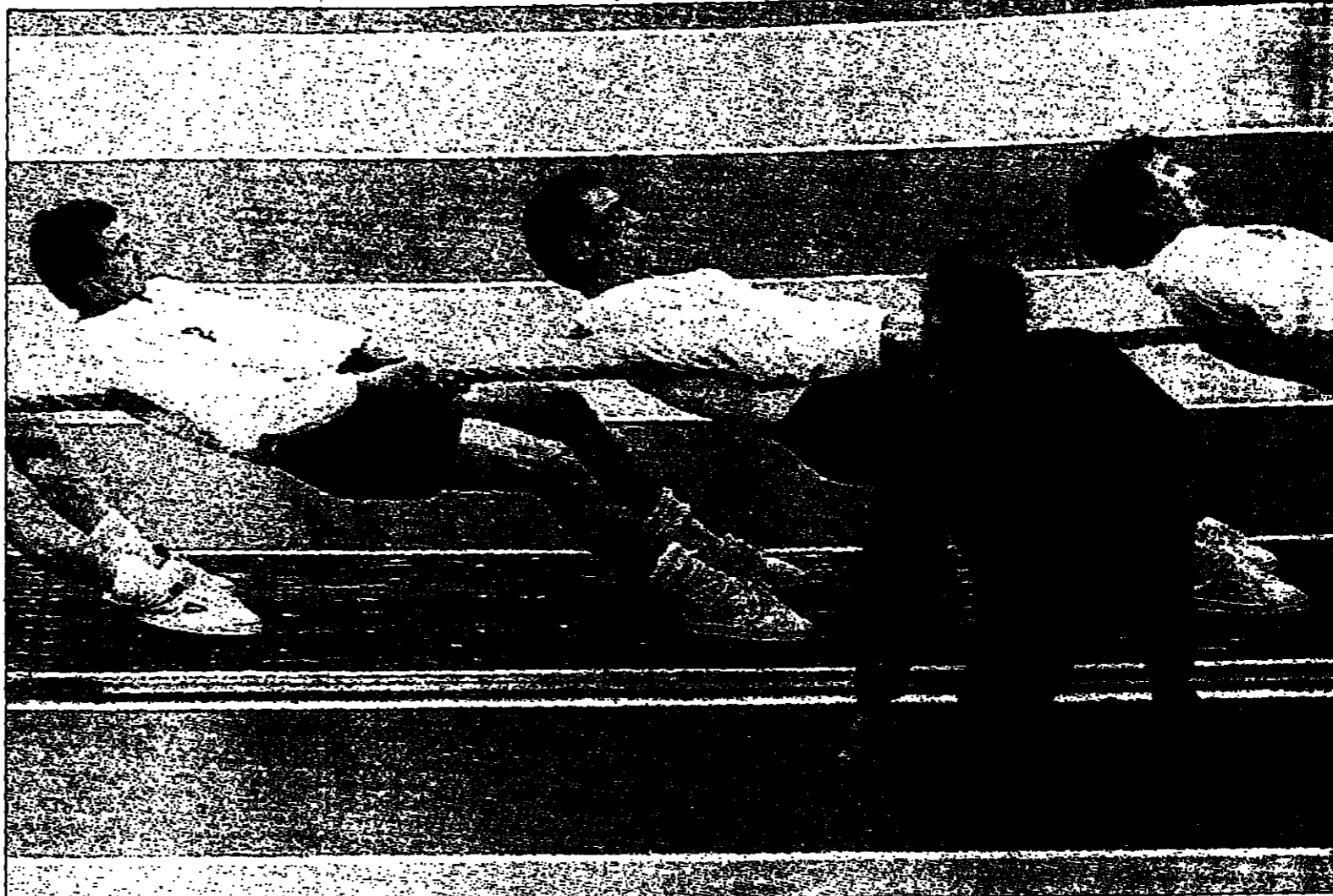
across the deck. However, breakages to gear are almost inevitable, as Grant Dalton, skipper of *Merit Cup*, in fifth position, warned yesterday. "Downtime caused by broaching or breakage is now the biggest problem we must try to avoid," he reported. "With all boats pushing so hard in these conditions, there could be some boats lost because of gear problems."

The leg is proving a fascinating battle between the Southern Ocean "hard men" — Smith and his fellow British skipper, Paul Standbridge, on *Toshiba* — and the new boys, led by the irrepressible Cayard, on *EF Language*.

On Saturday, Standbridge and Andrew Cape, his navigator, still had the lead from Gunnar Krantz, in *Swedish Match*, with Cayard third and *Silk Cut* fourth. By yesterday morning, Smith had snatched the lead for the first time before he, in turn, was overtaken by Cayard, who had a margin of just seven miles over the British crew.

Smith is performing as many had predicted he would on this leg. He will be driving as hard as he can for his first leg win in the race, but he will have to be careful not to break his boat in his bid to pull *Silk Cut* back up the overall table. Cayard, meanwhile, seems to have learnt the lessons of the second leg, which saw him and his crew burn out under the stresses of heavy-weather racing in the Southern Ocean.

In his report yesterday, Cayard said: "This is the most extreme thing I have ever done and so far it is the best sailing experience I have ever had. I have had better races, but the actual sailing here cannot be compared to anything else. Being at the helm, powering along at 24 knots, spray flying up as you launch down the big rollers is such a great feeling."



The Sheen farmers, from Derbyshire, take the strain during the tug-of-war event in the AAA indoor championships. Photograph: Mike Sewell

# Wariso resurfaces in stunning style

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SOLOMON WARISO knows very well how his sporting epitaph will read, unless he does something soon to exorcise the ghost of four summers past. "You do not want to be remembered for going to the European championships and getting kicked out for a drugs offence — it's not on," Wariso said yesterday. "I cannot retire with that hanging over me."

That will always be part of the Wariso story, but evidence emerged at the weekend of a possible happy ending to his tale of woe. At 31, when it seemed that his best running days might be over, he thrust himself forward as a challenger to win his first international title. In a stunning move up from 200 to 400 metres, Wariso won the AAA indoor title in a time that ranks him as the third-fastest Briton in the history of the event. The manner of his run was not without flaws, yet he recorded 45.71sec to jump ahead of

Du'aine Ladejo, David Grindley and Mark Richardson, among others, and in behind Jamie Baulch, who ran 45.39sec, and Todd Bennett, with 45.50sec.

Prior to the weekend, Wariso had no experience of 400 metres running, except in relays, yet now he is favourite to take the European indoor title in Valencia towards the end of this month. The novice in him showed on the third bend when he strayed into the second lane, but he displayed impressive strength over the extra distance to stay clear of Sean Baldock. He now leads the world rankings for the year, a feat matched by Julian Golding in the 200 metres. Golding, 22, recorded 20.46sec in winning the AAA title, moving ahead of John Regis, the former world indoor champion, into second place on the British all-time list behind Linford Christie's 20.25sec.

It was at the European championships in Helsinki in 1994 that Wariso was revealed to have failed a drugs test after inadvertently taking tablets that

contained a stimulant. His three-month suspension meant that he also missed the Commonwealth Games.

A combination of injuries and waning interest led him to run only a handful of races in the 18 months between the 1996 Olympic trials and yesterday. "I was not disillusioned, I just got bored with it," he said. "A lot of people thought I had retired."

For treatment of an Achilles tendon injury, he went to the Munich doctor recommended by Jürgen Klinsmann and used frequently by Christie. "He did not charge anything," Wariso said. "He just said: 'British athlete, it is an honour to treat you.'" Wariso is grateful also for the £670 a month that he receives from National Lottery sports funding. It has enabled him to train in Los Angeles under Innocent Egbunike, the Commonwealth record-holder.

Wariso has his sights not only on Valencia but also medals from the outdoor European championships, in Budapest in August, and the Common-

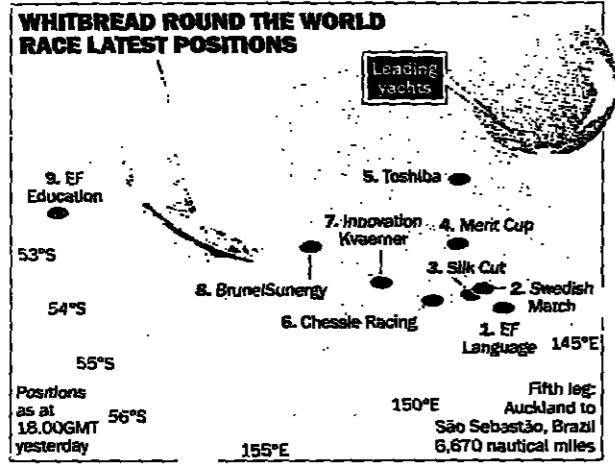
wealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September. He has not left the 200 metres behind and plans to mix the two events.

Michael Bruce, Wariso's coach when he is training in Great Britain, described the athlete as "our version of Michael Johnson". While Roger Black, Iwan Thomas and Ladejo have depended on strength for their successes, Wariso can break 44sec, Bruce said, because he can sprint too.

"The present crop of 400 metres runners are great, but they lack pure speed," Bruce said. "Solomon is primarily a strength-based athlete, but he can run anything from 100 to 400 metres."

Egbunike has told Wariso that, outdoors, he can run well inside the British record, around 43.8sec. "I think I can as well," Wariso said.

Golding, however, was making no predictions. "Confidence can be destroyed by talking too much," he said. Which begged the question: where was Ladejo? We have seen nothing of him since his outrageous predictions in 1996.



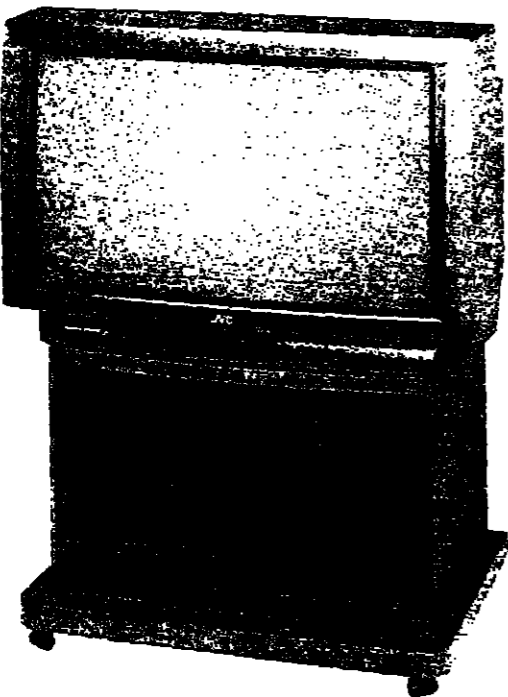
DISTANCE TO FINISH (with miles to São Sebastião): 1. *EF Language* (Swe) 4,627; 2. *Swedish Match* (Swe) 4,691; 3. *Silk Cut* (GB) 4,673; 4. *Merit Cup* (Morocco) 4,692; 5. *Toshiba* (US) 4,696; 6. *Chesale Racing* (US) 4,714; 7. *Innovation Kvaerner* (Nor) 4,768; 8. *BrunelSunergy* (Hol) 4,829; 9. *EF Education* (Swe) 5,096

EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

THE TIMES

# JVC WORLD CUP QUIZ

● Play every Monday, £25,000 of prizes must be won



Starting today *The Times* teams up with JVC to launch our countdown to the World Cup, the most exciting sporting event of the year, with a chance for every reader to win a 32-inch widescreen television worth £2,000.

This model has twin-picture technology with two tuners so you can watch two games simultaneously. The prize also incorporates JVC's new natural vision which reduces image flickering and Dolby Pro Logic 3D-PHONIC technology which allows you to enjoy surround sound without any additional equipment or speakers.

We will be kicking off every Monday for the next 22 weeks with our World Cup Quiz and a different JVC prize for you to win, worth a total of £25,000.

There are 32 teams playing 64 matches in the World Cup which begins on Wednesday, June 10 and ends with the final on Sunday, July 12 at 9pm. That's hundreds of hours of viewing time when you will want to keep up to speed with what is happening on the pitches in France with the best equipment.

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HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win this week's prize, call our competition hotline below with your answers to the following three questions. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight on Wednesday. Normal TNL rules apply.



- Which team became the first to win the World Cup three times when they beat Italy in the 1970 Final?  
a) Brazil b) England c) Uruguay

- What was the nationality of the linesman who awarded England's third goal in the 1966 World Cup Final?  
a) French b) Italian c) Russian

- When did England last play in the Finals of the World Cup?  
a) 1966 b) 1986 c) 1990

**CALL 0891 405 098**

0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Ex UK +44 990 100 326, calls cost 58p per minute. Lines are open until midnight, Wednesday February 11, 1998



CHANGING TIMES







Latter-day D'Artagnans must be fast and fit. Joanna Hunter takes a fencing lesson from the experts

# Courtesy and clashing cold steel

Laurent Harper, twice British fencing champion and now a fencing teacher, had drawn the short straw and was trying to reach me. "You have to be a bit of a detective to take up fencing," he said.

"Because it is not as popular as some sports, you have to hunt out which clubs do it. Mostly people find out through word of mouth." What Laurent did not mention was that to do it well, you also need to be very fit and agile with lightning reflexes.

When I arrived at the Sussex House club for my lesson, there were two pairs already fencing, while others — all male and under 30 — practised, darting around as if on springs. Swinging slightly and picturing myself as a 20th-century musketeer, I was ready to learn.

Kitting me out was simple. I had arrived with tracksuit bottoms and trainers, so all that was needed was a fencing jacket (eerily reminiscent of a straitjacket), a helmet with wire-mesh face protector and the steel sword — called a foil



Joanna is taught how to improve her lunge — striking forward with the foil. Points are scored by hitting your opponent's chest area, which causes a coloured light to flash on a box between the duellists



— which is one metre long and has a sensibly blunt end like the head of a drawing pin, called a button.

I was way out of my depth: the people sparring around me were members of the Britain fencing team. To get to their level, natural ability aside, I should have started at the age of seven or eight; at 25 I was a dinosaur. The majority of club members had started at public school: the Brideshead image of fencing is not without substance.

All the same, Laurent emphasises that all are welcome. Neither he nor Geoff Tonks, a fellow fencing master at the club, attended public schools but learnt instead at local sports clubs. Fencing courses are now also being taught at Butlin's, which Laurent hopes will give more people access to the sport.

The basis of fencing today emerged in the late 16th century, when the refined fashions of Versailles dictated that men should wear a lighter sword to protect their clothing and themselves.

The modern categories of fencing are *épée* and *sabre*, which evolved from the rapier and cutlass respectively, and the foil, which originally was only for practice.

In competition, the foil has an electrical sensor on the tip. A signal is transferred through a wire along the sword to a box, placed between the fencers, which flashes red, green and white lights. These denote each player's points: the white light signifies a non-scoring hit outside the target area.

Scoring varies according to the type of fencing and the level of competition. In *épée*, a hit on any part of the body counts as a point. Sabre is confined to above the waist, and foil to the chest area alone.

In general, the duel is decided either when one fencer scores 15 touches, or by who is ahead after three sets, each set lasting for three minutes.

Foil duels take place indoors on a "piste" — an area one-and-a-half to two metres wide and 14 metres long. There are five lines: centre, on guard, and rear limits. The sexes compete separately in competitions, and more men than women are involved in the sport, but female numbers are growing — even in sabre fencing, which was an all-male domain until recently.

What is the appeal? Patrick Forrester, a member of the club who started at school, thinks it is the cavalier image: "I liked it because it gave you the chance to bash around with a couple of swords."

"It is the thrill of outwitting your opponent using your skill," Laurent said. "It is also a good workout and improves your balance, co-ordination and self-esteem."

Fencing is a dramatic sport, which may explain why so many films include scenes of people fencing in improbable locations. Each match begins with a salute and ends with the opponents shaking hands. The salute involves holding the foil in front of your face and the mask under your arm.

The on-guard position comes next. As I am right-handed, my right arm and right foot were forward. Laurent arranged my arm so that

it was in line with the sword: the foil is manipulated by the fingers, holding a special hook between forefinger and thumb. My left arm was placed above and slightly behind my head with the hand limp, rather like a child's impression of a teapot. With my left foot angled out like a dancer's and knees bent, I was ready for action.

metodramatically flung down behind you.

The main defence is blocking or parrying, for which there are eight different official positions but I learned only two positions. The parry and riposte involves striking the attacking sword away with the side of the foil and then thrusting forward to make a hit. As Laurent was standing obligingly still, this was quite manageable — it was only when he started darting away that my problems began.

As a beginner I was clearly unready, but I watched the experts give a superb display of speed, flexibility and balance. The sport is as much a mental challenge as physical — it is rather like boxing without the thuggery; sparring for those who like to use their brains and keep them.

The third declarer made a serious error when instead of playing a spade to the ace at trick two he played a spade to his queen. Now when West wins the king he has to hope that his partner has the ace and queen in one of the red

TO FIND your nearest club, contact the British Fencing Association (0181-742 3032) or the Scottish Fencing Association (0141-445 1602). Full or associate members must be over 18. Fencers over 40 interested in resuming the sport should contact John Mason at the National Veterans Association (01225 760 251) who has details of

regional clubs. Most clubs take classes of up to 30 people; individual coaching is also available. Costs for coaching vary according to the area, standard of club and number of masters.

National and local competitions include categories for under-12s and under-14s, referred to as musketeer fencing; and under-16s and under-18s, called junior membership fencing.

Competitions: City of Glasgow Men's Epee World Cup, Glasgow, Saturday, March 7; qualifying round; Sunday March 8; Scotland v England team match. For details, contact Scottish Fencing Association, British 100th Sabre Championship, Bath, Saturday, February 21, Birmingham, International Five Weapons, Saturday April 11, Contact British Fencing Association.



The fencing salute, a chivalrous precursor to every duel



A mask protects the face

### EQUIPMENT

MOST clubs will be able to provide you with kit — but should you want to buy your own, Leon Paul Equipment (0171-358 8132) has fencing jackets from £51.76, breeches from £31.91, non-electronic masks from £43.89 and non-electric foils from £22.96. Women should wear a plastic chest protector which costs from £26.97. All the beginner really needs is a pair of trainers and some tracksuit bottoms.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's deal comes from the 1997 Gold Cup semi-finals.

Dealer South	East-West game	IMPs
♠KJ	♠882	
♥JS	♥K9732	
♦JS	♦K8754	
♣AK95432	♣AQ10754	
	♦AQ10754	
	♥AQ8	
	♠Q8	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of clubs

At three of the four tables the final contract was Four Spades. South opened One Spade, West overcalled Two Clubs, North either raised to Two Spades or made a Spunik double, and East raised to game, either by South bidding it directly or by North raising Three Spades to Four Spades.

At the three tables a top club was led. Two declarers played well. As they could afford to lose one spade to the ace after ruffing the first club, the idea was to ruff a second club, cross back to hand with a heart and play a trump, hoping that spades were 2-2 or someone had a singleton honour. When the jack fell on the first round of spades it was clear that this line would succeed and there were no further problems.

The third declarer made a serious error when instead of playing a spade to the ace at trick two he played a spade to his queen. Now when West wins the king he has to hope that his partner has the ace and queen in one of the red

suits; then the defence can take two tricks in that suit, after which a third round will promote a trick for West's jack of spades. But which red suit does East hold? In practice, West misgessed and played a heart and declarer soon wrapped up eleven tricks.

This is a situation where a suit-preference signal would come in useful. East should play the six of clubs at trick one (the did) and West should read it as asking for a diamond.

At the fourth table the Hackett twins were East-West. After Jason (East) had raised to Three Clubs, Justin bid Three No-Trumps over South's Three Spades. And when North-South pushed on to Four Spades, he tried Four No-Trumps. This unlikely contract went three down on a spade lead to the ace and a heart switch. Still, it was worth 3 IMPs when compared with the 420 in the other rooms.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Shared laurels

First prize in the tournament in Wijk aan Zee, Holland was shared between Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik. Anand's Karpov, the FIDE champion, only mastered 50 per cent. Here is a game by one of the co-winners.

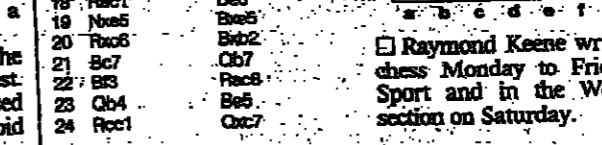
White: Vladimir Kramnik  
Black: Jeroen Piket

Wijk aan Zee January 1998

Semi-Slav Defence

1 Nf3	d5
2 d4	c6
3 c4	e6
4 Qc2	Nb7
5 e3	Bc6
6 Nd3	0-0
7 Bdc3	0-0
8 0-0	0-0
9 Bxc4	e5
10 Rd1	Re1+
11 Bc2	Qc7
12 Nd4	Nb4
13 Qc4	e5
14 Qx4	h6
15 Bc2	Re8
16 Qe5	Nb5
17 Bc5	Qc6
18 Rf2	Be6
19 Nxe5	Bxe5
20 Rb6	Ob7
21 Bc7	Nb5
22 Bc5	Qc7
23 Qb4	0-0
24 Re1	0-0

Diagram of final position



Raymond Keene writes in chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Wijk aan Zee final cross-table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1 Kramnik	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 Anand	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3 Shirov	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4 Thurnauer	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5 Adams	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6 Karpov	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7 Polgar	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8 Gelfand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 Piket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
10 Topalov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5
11 Salov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4
12 Nijboer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
13 Van Wely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
14 Smerin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Gurevich — Meirs, Groningen 1997.

With a rook and two knights against a queen, Black has no problems from a material point of view. However, the game is now decided by White's central passed pawns. Can you see how?

Solution on page 44



Geoff Tonks instructs Joanna in the art of parrying; champion Laurent Harper advises on the thrust manoeuvre



Kerly pr  
lustre for  
SPOR  
IN  
BASKETBALL  
Miller's dazzl  
form fails  
way Nemo

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HOCKEY PLAYERS START THEIR EDUCATION AT AN EARLY AGE

# Kerly provides golden lustre for college plans

By JOHN GOODBODY

WHEN such distinguished figures as Sean Kerly, the former Great Britain player, and David Bunyan, the Wales national coach, joined the staff of the same school last autumn, you would have expected that the school would soon become outstanding at hockey. However, Kent College, Canterbury, already is.

The mixed independent school on the outskirts of the cathedral city has already produced a series of formidable artificial pitch in the centre of its premises, allowing pupils to hone their skills. Last season, Vernon Holme, the juniors school, became national under-11 champions. Now five of the team have moved up into the senior school and, on Saturday, beat King's Rochester 5-0.

With two leading players, Sean Mount and Rob Pryce—who is a member of the England Under-15 squad—both absent, Kent College had to field players who had not

## SPORT IN SCHOOLS

previously played in a match. However, the dexterity and determination of those who did play were a delight. Angela Tingey, who, with Rosie Pryce and Peter Firminger, coached the team to their triumph last season, praised their "100 per cent commitment".

Many started playing at the age of six. Vernon Holme has a small artificial pitch providing facilities for precise technique. How did she teach hockey to such young players? "Because of football, boys usually have a better awareness than girls of positional

sense. However, because of their over-enthusiasm, they want to follow the ball and do too much," she said. "So every time everyone got badly out of position, I would blow the whistle and everyone would have to go back to their proper place. Then we would restart the game."

As boys get older, Kerly said, they should start really thinking about the game. "They should question themselves: 'How can I be more effective?'"

Kerly, the marketing manager and, with his wife, Jacqui, houseparents in a boarding house at the school, is an impressive figure to have watching your school hockey team. As William Moon, who captained the under-12s on Saturday and scored two goals, said: "Just everyone in hockey knows him."

Kerly became frustrated early in the game as a combination of lack of penetration and some stalwart defending by King's Rochester, particularly by Scott Braitwaite and Richard Jabbour, prevented

Kent College from scoring more often.

Kerly said: "Kent are trying to be too clever. When you get into the circle, you're better off gritting your teeth and whacking it." Well, he should know, as anyone who saw him inspire Great Britain to the gold medal in the 1988 Olympic Games will testify.

With Ben Hare, a member of the Kent Under-13 squad, getting the three goals and Matthew Carter resolute and solid in goal, Kent's dominance was not challenged.

However, Bunyan, who is coaching the team, was not ecstatic. "It was a mixed performance, but it was their first match of the season. They have to learn to get their body in the right position to receive the ball."

Clearly, with demanding coaches such as Bunyan, this team can only get better.

KENT COLLEGE SQUAD: M Carter, J Fowler, P Linn, W Haddock, W Moon, A Turg, A Ross, B Hare, D Colman, F Craig, A Mear, D Hendall.  
KING'S ROCHESTER SQUAD: T Holme, S Wakeman, A Jarr, S Baines, R Jabbour, M Cunningham, J Horner, P Best, J Jenkins, M Alford-Ashby, I McMillan, S Ogundoyin.



Sean Kerly is the centre of attention as he illustrates a point during a coaching session at Kent College

## BASKETBALL

# Miller's dazzling form fails to sway Nemeth

By NICHOLAS HARLING

FIVE years after making the last of his 20 appearances for England, Carl Miller is displaying the kind of form that would impress most national coaches—but not necessarily Laszlo Nemeth, who is obviously a hard man to convince.

"OK, he hit some points, but international ball? The question was left hanging in the air of the Bracknell sports centre, where Miller's contribution of 13 points, 11 of which came in a first-half flurry, failed to save Newcastle Eagles from a 92-88 defeat by Thames Valley Tigers.

Miller, 31, who has trained under Nemeth but never appeared for one of his England squads, would like nothing better than to be recalled for the games against Belarus and Israel in the European championship.

"If he calls me, I'll play," he said. "If he wants somebody to score points, make passes or do the dirty work, which I do most of the time, I'm his man. But maybe he thinks he has got a good enough squad already and doesn't need me."

Somewhat broader of beam now than in his prime under Kevin Cadle's coaching at Kingston, the 6ft 7in Miller still possesses the physique that could serve England usefully.

His onslaught, which included two three-pointers, precipitated a burst of ten points from the Eagles, six in succession from Rob Phelps and four from Mark Boyd, which cut the deficit to a single point at 47-46 at half-time.

But the Eagles could never quell Darreon Page or John

McCard, who scored 25 points each for the Tigers, or, for that matter, the indefatigable Tony Holley, who added 16 for good measure. The bulk of Page's points came through electric twists and turns, McCord's with athletic dunks and jump shots.

Phelps replied with 24 points for the Eagles, but Boyd looked the likely match-winner until he was fouled out with seven minutes left after scoring 21 points. Three pointers from Phelps, Chris Fine and Lesa McCee kept his colleagues hanging in, there until Jason Stenrod scored the last of his 16 points.

The Eagles' first defeat in 11 Boddys League games cost them ground in the title race, but Craig Lynch, their coach, refuses to believe that the Tyneside bubble has burst. "We never had a bubble," he said. "Who wants to hang on to bubbles anyway? It was just that things didn't go our way."

Sheffield Sharks maintained their challenge by following Friday's 86-69 defeat of Derby Storm with a 106-82 win at Watford Royals, who, having shocked London Towers, the leaders, last Sunday, have now lost twice to other title contenders. Wilbur Johnson sank 27 points.

An upset looked likely when Worthing Bears led Leicester Riders 44-39 at the interval, but the efforts of JaRon Boone (25 points) and Billy Singleton (24) gave the Riders an 88-72 success, condemning the Bears to their nineteenth successive defeat since the start of their financial crisis in November.

## ICE HOCKEY

# Eagles primed to land title triumph

By NORMAN DE MESSQUITA

AYR SCOTTISH EAGLES went into the weekend needing four points to be assured of the Superleague title. A 5-2 win away from home over Nottingham Panthers on Saturday took them more than halfway to their objective, as it left them needing only a draw in last night's home game with Manchester Storm to put them out of reach of their pursuers.

Their task on Saturday was made easier by injuries, which deprived the Panthers of five regulars, including Trevor Robins, their first choice goaltender—not that Scott O'Connor was in any way to blame for the Nottingham defeat. He made 42 saves—almost twice as many as Rob Dopson, his opposite number—and it took the Eagles nearly 12 minutes to break down a stubborn Nottingham defence before Mark Woolf opened the scoring.

Randall Weber brought the Panthers level within three minutes, but Woolf restored the Ayr lead midway through the second period, only for Jim Mathieson to tie the score once more. The rest of the evening

belonged to Ayr as Shawn Byram and John Parco saw them to a 4-2 lead at the second interval and Byram completed the scoring with his second goal early in the final period.

With only one victory in their previous seven games, Cardiff Devils have struggled of late, but the return from injury of Ken Hodge saw an upturn in their fortunes and they defeated Basingstoke Bison 4-2 to move ahead of the Panthers into third position in the table.

Bracknell Bees followed their remarkable 6-1 success in Cardiff on Thursday with a 6-1 defeat of Newcastle Cobras, which took them into third place in the Express Cup. In the two-legged semi-finals, they will meet Sheffield Steelers, the first leg to be played in Bracknell tomorrow evening and the return in Sheffield on Thursday week.

In the other semi-final, the Panthers will play the Eagles, with the first leg in Nottingham on Wednesday and the second in Ayr on Thursday week. The final will be staged in Newcastle on February 26.

20p

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES







# Liability for escape of noxious substance

**Empress Car Company (Aberllynny) Ltd v National Rivers Authority**

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde  
[Speeches February 5]

When considering whether a person had committed an offence of causing poisonous matter to enter controlled waters under section 85(1) of the Water Resources Act 1989 after a polluting substance kept on his premises had escaped, following the actions of a third party, the relevant question was whether the actions of the third party were to be regarded as a normal or an extraordinary fact of life.

If they were an ordinary occurrence it would not negate the causal effect of the defendant's act in keeping the polluting substance but if they were extraordinary it would be possible to hold that the defendant had not caused the pollution.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Empress Car Company (Aberllynny) Ltd from a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Bennett) upholding its conviction by Newton Crown Court (Judge Gwyther, QC and Justice) and Tredegar Justices on a prosecution brought by the National Rivers Authority for causing poisonous matter to enter controlled waters contrary to section 85(1) of the 1989 Act.

The company had kept a diesel tank in a yard which drained directly into the River Ebbw-Fach and was governed by a tap which had no lock. An unknown person had opened the tap and the entire contents of the tank overflowed and passed down a drain into the river.

Mr Frederick Philpot, QC and Mr Jonathan Gooding for the company; Mr Nigel Penning, QC

and Mr Mark Bailey for the authority.

**LORD HOFFMANN** said that in *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1996)* [1996] 1 WLR 990, 993 Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Goff and Lord Slynn said, rightly, that the question in *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1996)* [1996] 1 WLR 990, 993 and *Wychavon District Council v National Rivers Authority* [1992] 1 WLR 125 on a positive act as the immediate cause of the escape was a "further requirement" which should not have been added.

In the instant case the down court found that the escape was caused by the way the company maintained its tank of diesel fuel. Maintaining a tank of diesel was doing something and therefore, provided that it was open to the court to find the necessary causal connection established, it was entitled to convict.

The principles involved in the way common sense notions of causation treated the intervention of third parties or natural forces were not complicated or difficult to understand but they did call for some explanation.

It was remarkable how many cases there were under the Act in which justices had attempted to apply common sense and found themselves reversed by the Divisional Court for error of law.

More guidance was necessary. The first point to emphasise was that common sense answers to questions of causation would differ according to the purposes for which the question was asked. For example, take the case of a man who forgot to take the radio out of his car and during the night and someone broke into the car and stole it. What caused the damage?

If the thief was on trial, so that the question was whether he was criminally responsible, then obviously the answer was that he caused the damage.

On the other hand, the owner's wife, irritated at the third such occurrence in a year, might well

say that it was his fault. In the context of a non-legal, common sense duty to take reasonable care of his own possessions, one would say that his carelessness caused the loss of the radio.

It was wrong and distracting in the case of a prosecution under section 85(1) to ask "What caused the pollution?" There might be a number of correct answers to a question put in those terms.

The only question which had to be asked for the purposes of section 85(1) was "Did the defendant cause the pollution?" The fact that for different purposes, or even for the same purpose, one could also say that someone or something else caused the pollution was not inconsistent with the defendant having caused it.

Next came the question of third parties. In answering questions of causation for the purposes of holding someone responsible, both the law and common sense normally attached great significance to deliberate human acts and consequences.

One could not give a common sense answer to a question of causation for the purposes of attributing responsibility under some rule without knowing the purpose and scope of the rule.

Did the rule impose a duty which required one to guard against, or make one responsible for the deliberate acts of third persons? If so, it would be correct to say, when loss was caused by the act of a third person, that it was caused by the breach of duty.

That was not a question of common sense fact; it was a question of law.

While liability under section 85(1) was strict and therefore included liability for certain deliberate acts of third parties and natural events, it was not an absolute liability in the sense that all that had to be shown was that the polluting matter escaped from the defendant's land irrespective of how that happened. It had to still

be possible to say that the defendant caused the pollution.

In the sense in which the concept of foreseeability was normally used, namely as an ingredient in the tort of negligence, in the form of the question: "Ought the defendant reasonably to have foreseen what happened?" it was not relevant.

The true common sense distinction was between acts and events which, although not necessarily foreseeable in the particular case, were in the generally a normal and familiar fact of life, and acts and events which were abnormal and extraordinary.

Of course an act or event which was in general terms a normal fact of life might also have been foreseeable in the circumstances of the particular case, but the latter was not necessary for the purposes of liability.

There was nothing unusual, regrettable, about ordinary vandalism. So when such a thing occurred one did not say: That was an extraordinary coincidence which negated the causal connection between the original act of accumulation and the escape. In the context of section 85(1), the defendant's accumulation had still caused the pollution.

On the other hand, a terrorist attack would be something so unusual that one would not regard the defendant's conduct as having caused the escape at all.

In summary, 1. Justices dealing with prosecutions for "causing" pollution under section 85(1) should first require the prosecution to identify what it was said the defendant did to cause the pollution.

If the defendant could not be said to have done anything at all or to have done something so unusual that one would not regard the defendant's conduct as having caused the escape at all.

2. The prosecution need not prove the development consent within article 1 of the Directive.

Section 2(2) provided that the old mining permission should have effect as from the determination of conditions as if granted on the terms required to be registered.

His Lordship's conclusion was specific to the statutory scheme under consideration and was not intended to apply generally to schemes in which, in the interests of orderly planning, a series of consents was required before development could proceed. The last of the decisions giving consent was not necessarily or universally the relevant decision for the purposes of articles 1 and 2 of the Directive.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Evans agreed.

Solicitors: Richard Buxton, Cambridge; Mr Richard Daly, Northampton.

# Meaning of 'employment' for pensions

**Preston and Others v Wolverhampton Healthcare NHS and Others**

**Fletcher and Others v Midland Bank plc**

Before Lord Goff of Cheshley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan and Lord Hope of Craighead  
[Speeches February 5]

"The employment" in section 2(4) of the Equal Pay Act 1970, as amended, referred to in a part-time employee employed under a series of contracts, to the particular contract in respect of which complaint was made rather than the whole series of contracts.

Questions as to whether the six-month limit in section 2(4) as so interpreted and the two-year limitation in section 2(5), as amended, were compatible with European Community law principles that national procedural rules in relation to branches of Community law must not make it excessively difficult or impossible in practice for claimants to exercise their rights under article 119 of the EC Treaty (OJ 1992 No C224, p6) and must not be less favourable than those applicable to similar domestic claims should be referred to the European Court of Justice under article 177.

The House of Lords so held and ordered on appeals by Alma Brack and seven others in Preston and Dorothy Mary Elizabeth Fletcher and eight others in Fletcher from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Omon and Lord Justice Schiemann) [1997] ICR 894, which had dismissed their appeals from *The Employment Appeal Tribunal* (The Times July 2 [1996] IRLR 489).

Section 2(4) and (5) of the 1970 Act have been amended by section 2(6) of, and paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and modified by regulation 12(1) of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Equal Access to Membership) Regulations (SI 1976 No 142).

Section 2, as amended, provides: "(4) No claim in respect of the operation of an equality clause relating to a woman's employment shall be referred to an industrial tribunal... if she has not been employed in the employment within the six months preceding the date of the reference.

(5) A woman shall not be entitled to proceedings brought in respect of a failure to comply with an equality clause... to be awarded any payment by way of arrears of remuneration or damages in respect of a time earlier than two years before the date on which proceedings were instituted.

Regulation 12 of the 1976 regulations provides: "(1) The [1970] Act shall be so modified as to provide that... an industrial tribunal... may declare that the employee has a right to be admitted to [a scheme] with effect

from such date... as if they specified, not being earlier than... the date two years before the institution of the proceedings in which the order was made.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr John Cavanagh for the applicants in Preston; Mr David Pannick, QC and Ms Jane McNeill for the applicants in Fletcher; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Jason Coppel for Southern Electric plc, Electricity Pension Trustee Ltd and South Wales Electricity Co plc; Miss Cherie Booth, QC, Mr Tim Kerr and Mr Clive Lewis for Birmingham City Council, Manchester City Council, Lancashire County Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council and North East Lincolnshire Council; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Miss Melanie Tether for Sutton College, Preston College, Grimsby College and Hull College; Mr Patrick Elias, QC, Eileen and Mr Jason Coppel for Midland Bank plc; Mr Nicholas Paines, QC and Mr Raymond Hill for the Secretaries of State for Health, Education and Employment and the Environment.

The question essentially was whether, if a woman claimed in respect of the operation of an equality clause within six months of the end of her employment, the clause was to be read as applicable to the particular contract governing that employment or to the employment relationship covering a number of different contracts with the same employer.

In his Lordship's view, "the employment" could only be the specific contract in respect of which the claim was made.

Where there were breaks between separate contracts, at any rate where there was an umbrella clause under which periodically and regularly renewed contracts could amount to a continuous membership of an occupational pension scheme, as well as benefits payable under the scheme, fell within the scope of article 119 of the EC Treaty; that the exclusion of part-time workers from membership could amount to a contravention of that article if it affected a much greater number of women than men; and that time limits under national law applied to the assertion of the right to membership so long as the rules were not less favourable for that type of action than for similar actions of a domestic nature and did not render the exercise of rights conferred by Community law "excessively difficult or impossible in practice".

As a result of those decisions a large number of part-time workers, estimated by now at around 60,000 and mainly, but not exclusively, women, had begun proceedings before industrial tribunals throughout the country variously claiming that they had been excluded from occupational pension schemes or that their part-time service had not been credited for pension purposes.

Some had been employed in the private, some in the public sector. Sensibly, it had been arranged for groups of claims by women employees in both sectors to be taken as test cases.

On the appeal to the House of Lords, two groups of questions had arisen, not depending on the

determination of any issue of domestic law, as to the compatibility of provisions of the 1970 Act, as amended and modified, with article 119 of the EC Treaty, which clearly had to be decided before judgment could be given.

They concerned the six-month limitation in section 2(4) and the two-year limitation in section 2(5). Questions should accordingly be referred to the European Court of Justice under article 177 of the Treaty.

In Preston, an initial question of domestic law arose as to the interpretation of section 2(4). It concerned part-time teachers or lecturers employed under a succession of contracts or working intermittently.

The question essentially was whether, if a woman claimed in respect of the operation of an equality clause within six months of the end of her employment, the clause was to be read as applicable to the particular contract governing that employment or to the employment relationship covering a number of different contracts with the same employer.

In his Lordship's view, "the employment" could only be the specific contract in respect of which the claim was made.

Where there were breaks between separate contracts, at any rate where there was an umbrella clause under which periodically and regularly renewed contracts could amount to a continuous membership of an occupational pension scheme, as well as benefits payable under the scheme, fell within the scope of article 119 of the EC Treaty; that the exclusion of part-time workers from membership could amount to a contravention of that article if it affected a much greater number of women than men; and that time limits under national law applied to the assertion of the right to membership so long as the rules were not less favourable for that type of action than for similar actions of a domestic nature and did not render the exercise of rights conferred by Community law "excessively difficult or impossible in practice".

As a result of those decisions a large number of part-time workers, estimated by now at around 60,000 and mainly, but not exclusively, women, had begun proceedings before industrial tribunals throughout the country variously claiming that they had been excluded from occupational pension schemes or that their part-time service had not been credited for pension purposes.

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# Old mining permission requires assessment

**Regina v North Yorkshire County Council, Ex parte Brown and Another**

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Pill  
[Judgment January 27]

A local authority was required to consider an environmental assessment pursuant to article 2 of Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of public and private projects on the environment (OJ 1985 L175/40) before determining the conditions to which an old mining permission was to be subject under section 22 of, and Schedule 2 to the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 as "old mining permissions".

Section 22 of, and Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act provided a procedure whereby the landowner might apply to the mineral planning authority for the permission to be registered and paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 2 required the authority to register the permission to be subject to the conditions to be set by the authority.

Wensley Quarries near Preston-under-Scar was subject to an interim development order made in 1947. On September 1993 the secretary of state registered a permission under section 22 of the 1991 Act in respect of about 320 hectares. On June 6, 1995, the council determined an application for approval of conditions for the operation, restoration and after care of that part of Wensley Quarries owned by Mr Hall.

QC and Mr Philip Kobin for the council.

**LORD JUSTICE PILL** said that interim development orders were permissions for the winning and working of minerals or the working of mineral waste originally granted after July 21, 1948 and before July 1, 1948. They had been replaced by a valid planning permission in respect of development not carried out by July 1, 1948. They were referred to in the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 as "old mining permissions".

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The applicants, local residents, sought to quash the determination of conditions. The issue was whether the EEC Directive applied to setting conditions by virtue of section 22 of the 1991 Act on interim development orders. Was an environmental assessment, within the meaning of that term in the Directive, required before conditions were made subject to it?

Article 2 of the Directive provided: "Member states shall adopt all measures necessary to ensure that, before consent is given, projects likely to have significant effects on the environment, by virtue of their nature, size or location, are made subject to an assessment with regard to their effects."

"Consent" was "development consent" as defined in article 1. It meant: "The decision of the competent authority... which entitles the developer to proceed with the project."

The council was the competent authority under the article for present purposes.

The issue was therefore whether the section 22 determinations were, singly or together, those "which entitle the developer to proceed with the project".

His Lordship concluded that the determination of conditions under

the 1991 Act was in the present context the decision which entitled the developer to proceed with the project in the terms of the Directive.

Not only was the determination of conditions liable to be quashed by the developer to proceed "to proceed" in that he could not lawfully proceed without it, but the entire purpose of the 1991 scheme was to regulate, and make subject to modern control, permissions which had been granted over 40 years before 1991 and at a time when there was no comprehensive planning control.

The fact that old mining permissions might be unconditional, as in the present case, an unthinkable situation in modern times, demonstrated the comprehensive exercise necessary under the 1991 procedures and contemplated by them.

Section 22 provided that the permission ceased to have effect if the appropriate steps were not taken. The scheme imposed strict time limits upon an owner who wished to implement his old mining permission.

Under the particular statutory scheme, which required registration and an application for approval of conditions to which the permission was to be subject, a consent was required which was

the development consent within article 1 of the Directive.

Section 2(2) provided that the old mining permission should have effect as from the determination of conditions as if granted on the terms required to be registered.

His Lordship's conclusion was specific to the statutory scheme under consideration and was not intended to apply generally to schemes in which, in the interests of orderly planning, a series of consents was required before development could proceed. The last of the decisions giving consent was not necessarily or universally the relevant decision for the purposes of articles 1 and 2 of the Directive.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Evans agreed.

Solicitors: Richard Buxton, Cambridge; Mr Richard Daly, Northampton.

# Informality can lead to error

**Dyson v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Thorpe  
[Judgment January 28]

There was a danger that the more informal and relaxed atmosphere that inspectors hearing planning appeals were urged to adopt by Department of Environment Circular 15/96, *Planning Appeal Procedures*, could lead to inadequate examination of the relevant issues and thus prevent a full and fair hearing from being held. An inspector's failure to ensure a sufficient inquiry required his decision to be quashed.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mr Linden P. Dyson, from the judgment of Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC who, sitting as a deputy High Court judge in June 1997, had upheld the decision letter of a planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment and had dismissed the applicant's appeal from a decision by Chiltern District Council refusing him permission to carry out alterations to provide a building for venetian breeding at Puhindley Farm, Chesham. The court ordered that the inspector's decision letter be quashed.

The applicant in person; Mr Timothy Mould for the secretary of state; Miss Anne Williams for the council.

**LORD JUSTICE PILL** said that the applicant's appeal under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against the district council's refusal to grant planning permission was for the purposes of Circular 15/96 a hearing as distinct from a public local inquiry.

Paragraph 1 of the circular stated that the "appeal process" was designed to be as efficient and user-friendly as possible, involving the best possible use of resources, whilst upholding the principles of fairness, thoroughness and consistency... [inspectors] had been urged by the secretary of state to exercise tighter control over advocacy and cross-examination... and to curtail excessive or "over-aggressive" cross-examination. That last intention was admirable.

By paragraph 18 the process was to be "simpler and quicker than that for inquiries. It enables the parties to present their case fully and fairly in a more relaxed and less formal atmosphere... It usually takes the form of a round-table discussion led by the inspector."

It was clear that at a hearing there was to be no formal cross-examination; the intention was to make the procedure less daunting for unrepresented parties.

However, planning permission having been refused, conflicting propositions and evidence would often be placed before an inspector on appeal. Whatever procedure was followed, the strength of a case could be determined only on an understanding of that case and by

testing it with reference to propositions in the opposing case.

At a public inquiry the inspector, in performing that task, usually had the benefit of cross-examination. If cross-examination appeared, the need to examine propositions in that way did not disappear with it.

Further, the statutory right to be heard was strengthened, in some way, the strength of what is said and what is listened to by the tribunal but was assessed for its own worth in relation to opposing contentions.

There was a danger, on the procedure now followed by the secretary of state of observing the right to be heard by holding a hearing, that the need for such consideration would be forgotten. The danger was that the more relaxed atmosphere could lead not to a full and fair hearing but to a less than thorough examination of the issues. A relaxed hearing was not necessarily a fair hearing.

The hearing must not become so relaxed that the rigorous examination essential to the determination of difficult questions might be diluted. The absence of an accusatorial procedure placed an inquisitorial burden on an inspector.

The danger that the required fair hearing had not been carried out was quashed. A fair and thorough investigation could be expected by a party who had the right to be heard.

On a consideration of the decision letter it was not certain that there had been sufficient inquiry into the applicant's claimed agricultural justification.

Findings by the inspector of "considerable doubt as to the firm intentions of the applicant" and of "insufficient detail about future expansion" read somewhat oddly in the context of a short hearing with no apparent challenge to the business plan submitted by the applicant.

The inspector, possibly put off guard by the relaxed informality of the procedure he was required to follow, had not provided the fair hearing required.

Long decision letters by inspectors were not to be encouraged. But where a decision was challenged, the court had to inquire by reference to the decision letter, whether there had been a sufficient consideration of the merits of the case put forward by a party and of any challenge to it.

In leading the discussion at the hearing, the duties of the inspector could be extensive, especially when dealing with an unrepresented person who, related as he was expected to be, might be difficult about repeating points which the inspector said he had read or seeing to challenge or have challenged an assertion made by someone else around the table.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Thorpe gave concurring judgments.

# Finance relevant to footpath provision

**Regina v Norfolk County Council, Ex parte Thorpe**

Before Mr Justice Laws  
[Judgment January 29]

In considering whether it was necessary or desirable for a public footway to be provided by the side of a highway it was proper for a local authority to take account of its financial resources.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court in dismissing the application of David Thorpe for a writ of certiorari to quash the decision of Norfolk County Council of May 22, 1996 not to include provision for a footpath in road improvements in Wymondham.

Mr Thorpe was a partially sighted man who lived in a house where the road improvements were taking place. He was dissatis-

fied, in part, because the local authority had included as relevant its financial resources in considering whether or not to make provision for a footpath.

Section 66 of the Highways Act 1980 provides: "(1) It is the duty of a highway authority to provide in or by the side of a highway maintainable at the public expense by them which consists of or comprises a made-up highway a proper and sufficient footway as part of the highway in any case where they consider the provision of a footway as necessary or desirable for the safety or accommodation of pedestrians."

Mr John Holt, QC, for Mr Thorpe; Mr David Holgate, QC, for the council.

**MR JUSTICE LAWS** said that there were three possibilities:

1. The local authority might have regard to its financial resources in considering whether the provision of a footway was necessary or desirable.

2. It might have regard to its financial resources in deciding when it was to carry out the duty to provide a footway, having earlier concluded, without regard to financial resources, that such provision was necessary or desirable.

3. The local authority's financial resources played no part whatever in the lawful administration of section 66.

His Lordship considered *R v Gloucestershire County Council, Ex parte Barry* [1997] AC 584. The House of Lords' decision, there seemed to exemplify a proposition which was, perhaps, to easily ignored.

It was that the concept of

necessity, while certainly objective, was not absolute, at least where by statute a public authority was required to make a judgment whether a particular course of action was necessary, as the precursor of a duty arising upon the authority's shoulders to carry out the action in question why such an approach should not be applied to section 66. The first of the three possibilities as to the proper construction of the section represented the section's correct interpretation.

The authority could have regard to its financial resources in considering whether the provision of a footway was necessary or desirable.

Solicitors: Cunningham John & Co, Theford; Mr Chris Harding, Norwich.

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CHANGING TIMES







# Shell and BP oilmen find the going tough

**SHELL:** Fourth-quarter results due on Thursday from Shell Transport & Trading, the oil group, should show lower oil prices offsetting any improved performance from refining and marketing and chemicals operations. Shell, of which Mark Moody-Stuart is chairman, saw the price of oil drop during 1997 from \$23.82 a barrel to \$18.94.

Underlying net income will be around £1.3 billion, ahead of the £1.22 billion achieved in the third quarter, but down on the £1.38 billion in the 1996 fourth quarter. The results may reflect only minimal damage from the Asian crisis. The net dividend should be up by 8 per cent to 8.1p.

**BRITISH PETROLEUM:** Fourth-quarter numbers due tomorrow from the oil group, whose chief executive is Rodney Chase, are expected to fall short of both the underlying £69 million in the third quarter and the £69 million achieved in the final quarter of 1996. Brokers are looking for around £62 million, accompanied by a 10 per cent rise in the dividend, to 5.75p.

A rise in volume of about 100,000 barrels a day will be offset by the lower oil price. Downstream refining margins will show a sharp decline after a strong third quarter, which will have countered any benefit accrued from the joint venture in Europe with Mobil.

**LLOYDS TSB:** Friday 13 may be unlucky for some, but the City remains bullish on prospects for the Lloyds TSB bank, which reports final results on the day. Analysts are forecasting a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £3.18 billion.

However, provisions are expected to rise sharply, to £597 million, reflecting consolidation of Lloyds TSB's interna-

## COMPANIES

tional business. With return on equity running at more than 40 per cent, Lloyds TSB is an extremely profitable operation. The dividend is likely to grow by almost a third, to 17p.

**BRITISH TELECOM:** A further profits decline seems likely when the telecommunications group unveils pre-tax profits on Thursday.

Another weak contribution from MCI, increased losses from BT's European associates and interest charges associated with last year's 35p special dividend will depress the group's underlying performance.

Pre-tax profit estimates range from £940 million to £1 billion, including an exceptional gain of £25 million relating to MCI's merger termination penalty.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS:** The strong pound and turmoil in Asian markets are likely to punch a sizeable hole in BA's third-quarter results, due to be announced today. Brokers' third-quarter forecasts range between £75 million and £85 million, against £109 million last time, with earnings per share down by around 20 per cent, from 8.4p to 6.6p.

Growth in passenger volume during the third quarter was less than 3 per cent. The yield is expected to improve significantly on the 5.4 per cent drop seen in the second quarter, which covered a period of industrial unrest. Total revenues are expected to be up by 2.1 per cent, to £2.05 billion.

NatWest Markets, the broker, believes that there has been a further deterioration in trading conditions recently and has downgraded its full-year forecast by £62 million, to £410 million.

**BOC GROUP:** Currency factors are likely to play a big part in BOC's first-quarter results, due out tomorrow. The impact on profits in the gases division alone is likely to be about £8 million. Brokers say that downgrading of full-year profit estimates is inevitable.

Pre-tax profits this time round are likely to be slightly up, with brokers looking for £100 million to £110 million, against £102.7 million last time. Earnings per share should be up around 5 per cent, at 14.2p.

The bulk of the group's profits are still earned abroad, with £80 million coming from Australasia, £60 million from South Africa, £30 million from Japan and a further £50 million from the north Pacific area.

A strong order book will have boosted the vacuum division, but the going is difficult in distribution, and healthcare will have lost ground.

**REUTERS:** Last week, the information company was affected by the news of a US grand jury investigation into allegations of theft of data on fixed-interest stocks from the rival Bloomberg. The shares,

which fell to a low of 520p, have started to recover after reassurance from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, that they had been oversold.

The market expects a decline in profit when Reuters reports final results tomorrow, with estimates of the pre-tax figure ranging from £680 million to £695 million, down from £701 million in 1996. Analysts have become pessimistic about the group's ability to achieve double-digit earnings growth. Earnings per share this time are expected to fall from 30.4p to 29.7p.

Most of the profit decline this time will be from currency movements. Underlying trading is expected to have continued to grow, with revenue rising by around 8 per cent, underpinned by the success of the Reuters 3000 computerised trading system.

The dividend should increase from 11.75p to 13p.

**UNILEVER:** A mass of exceptional charges and the impact of a strong pound will distort full-year results tomorrow and mask improved performance by the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group. Uni-

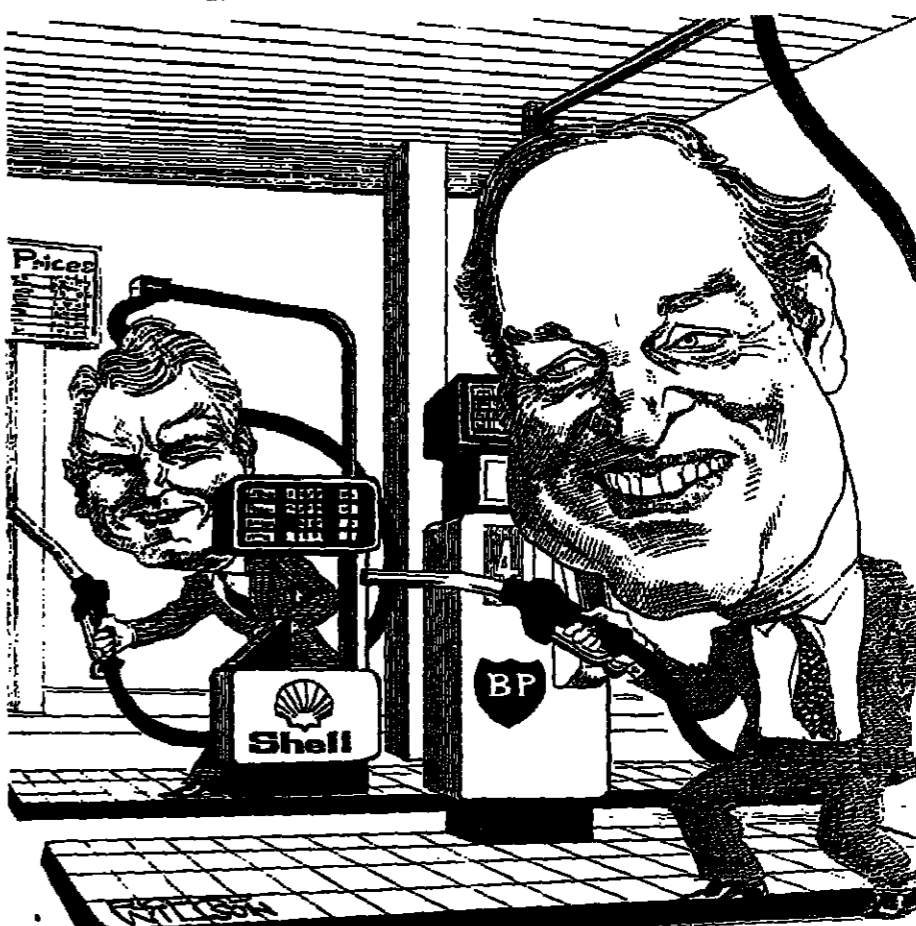
lever is expected to report pre-tax profits for the year to December of £2.1 billion to £2.25 billion, compared with £2.65 billion last year.

Analysts are forecasting a net dividend of about 5p — in line with the comments made when the company decided to split its shares in August.

Although forecasts exclude the exceptional profit on the disposal of the specialty chemicals operations to ICI, they include exceptional charges relating to the restructuring plans and asset writedowns.

**DALGETY:** Having made £1.2 billion worth of disposals during the past few weeks, the food manufacturer will only have the figures from its pig-breeding and farm supplies division to interest the City when it reports interim figures on Wednesday. The target of paying back £650 million to shareholders via a buyback was well received in the City.

The sale of the ingredients and petfoods businesses and Martin Brower in the US will focus attention on prospects. Brokers will want to know the way forward and what the group intends to do with any cash surplus. The payout is expected to rise from 5½p to 6p.



MICHAEL CLARK

Rivals at the pumps: Mark Moody-Stuart, of Shell, and Rodney Chase, of BP

## Markets to home in on Bank report

The key event in the British economic calendar this week is Wednesday's publication of the Bank of England's quarterly *Inflation Report*. After last week's decision by the Monetary Policy Committee to leave base rates unchanged, the markets will be eager to read the analysis for clues on whether rates have peaked or if another rate rise is in the pipeline.

The first economic indicator of the week comes today with publication of December producer prices. Input prices are expected to have fallen again, courtesy of a combination of lower commodity prices and the pound's strength. Output prices, charged at the factory gate, are expected to have risen modestly, giving an annual rate of around 1 per cent, little changed from November.

Tomorrow, the January retail sales monitor from the British Retail Consortium will give a further snapshot of activity on the high street, a particularly contentious component of the economy amid mixed signals from surveys and government figures. January retail price figures, also to be published, will be read closely to see if they confirm anecdotal reports of heavy discounting on the high street.

Coinciding with the Bank's *Inflation Report*, figures are to be published for unemployment in January and average earnings growth in December. The latter is regarded as a key indicator for the Bank's policy on interest rates. Minutes of the January Monetary Policy Committee meeting will also be published.

JANET BUSH

## TODAY

Interims: British Airways (Q3), Northern, PizzaExpress.  
Finals: ICC Bank, Oim Convertible Trust, Economist UK producer price index (Jan).

## TOMORROW

Interims: BOC Group.  
Finals: BP, Future Integrated, Henderson, TR Pacific, Inn Business Group, Forval, Reuters Holdings, Standard Bank Holdings, Unilever, Economist, UK British Retail Consortium retail sales survey (Jan), UK retail price index (Jan), UK CSI retail trends survey (Feb), US labour productivity (Q4).

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: Dalgety, Vigen Technology.  
Finals: Britannia Smaller, Golden Vale, Internet Technology, Medeva, Memory Corp, Scottish American Investment Company, Economist, UK average earnings (Dec), UK unit wage costs (Dec), UK unemployment (Jan), minutes of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee's Jan 7-8 meeting, Bank of England quarterly *Inflation Report*, Tokyo market closed.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Ambridge Brothers, British Telecom (Q3), Fleet Street Tribune Investment Trust, Colt Telecom, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Shell Transport & Trading, Willis Coroon.  
Economist: US retail sales (Jan), US weekly jobless claims report.

## FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.  
Finals: Lloyds TSB.  
Economic statistics: none scheduled.

*The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy British Airways, Media Business Group, Hercules Property Services, Fibernet. Sell British Borneo, Wm Morrison. *The Sunday Times:* Buy Personal Number Company, Babcock, Clinton Cards, 600 Group, MY Holdings, Regalian. *The Observer:* Buy Kingfisher. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy Allied Domecq, Glaxo Wellcome. *The Express:* Buy ICI, First Leisure, Heal's.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

**STERLING**  
US dollar 1.6505 (+0.0155)  
German mark 2.9603 (-0.0288)  
Exchange index 104.4 (-0.6)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCKS

FT 30 share 3452.5 (+93.9)  
FTSE 100 5629.7 (+171.2)  
New York Dow Jones 8189.49 (+282.99)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17040.06 (+411.59)

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**CHANGING TIMES**



**THE FACTS**

Turnover: £2.9 billion  
Pre-tax profit: £664 million  
Employees: 14,400  
Businesses: ScottishPower, generator and distributor of electricity in Scotland; Manweb, regional electricity company in northwest England; Southern Water. Also Scottish Telecom, over which flotation rumours are rife; gas supply and an electrical retail chain. Supplies utilities to one in five UK homes.

**THE BOARD**

Chief executive since 1995 is Ian Robinson, who joined from Trafalgar House, where he was chief executive of John Brown. A non-executive director of Scottish Enterprise and Lloyd's Register of Shipping, he heads the Scottish taskforce overseeing the implementation of Welfare to Work. Finance director is Ian Russell, who joined ScottishPower in 1994 after holding senior positions at HSBC and Tomkins. He is a non-executive director of Scottish Investment Trust. Senior cohorts include Mike Kinski, chief executive of power distribution and water operations. Kinski, who will become Stagecoach's chief executive in April, is a former personnel director of Jaguar Cars. He joined ScottishPower in 1992 as human resources director. In 1995 he became chief executive of Manweb after its acquisition by ScottishPower and then moved to the same position at Southern Water. Ken Vowles is executive director of generation, and Duncan Whyte, former finance director of Kwik-Fit, is executive director of multi-utility. Murray Stuart has been the non-executive chairman since 1992. He was made CBE in 1995 for services to the Audit Commission, of which he was deputy chairman. He is a non-executive director of The Royal Bank of Scotland and Willis Corroon. Other non-executives include Sir Benjamin Gaskell, current chairman of the Audit Commission. He is chief executive of The Weir Group and a non-executive director of Shell UK. Sir Peter Gregson joined the board in 1996 after retiring as permanent secretary at the DTI. Ewen Macpherson, former chief executive of 3i, is a non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust and M&G Group. John Parslow, a director of LucasVarity, is a member of the Government's Foresight Panel for Manufacturing, Production and Business Processes.

**CORPORATE PROFILE ScottishPower**



Powering ahead: Ian Russell, top left, and Ian Robinson have helped to shape the industry, not just ScottishPower; pylons carry electricity to a growing market; Manweb, the northwest company, was the first takeover target; the reservoirs of Southern Water were added a year later

It is easy to imagine the directors of ScottishPower playing Risk — the boardgame where players take a gamble on countries, move in plastic armies and then fight with their neighbours for new territories. ScottishPower rolled the dice quickly in 1995 when it became clear that the country's utilities were poised for a big shakeout soon after the expiry of the Government's golden shares in the privatised companies. The Scottish electricity generator and distributor bought Manweb, the northwest England regional electricity company, almost as soon as the game started, and the year after added Southern Water.

The acquisitions gave ScottishPower big footholds in northern and southern England. The company now delivers a utility service to one in five homes in the UK. Its plan now is that armies of sales teams will keep those bases and eat into those of rivals, as the energy markets open to domestic competition.

The test of the company's game-plan is nigh. The monopoly is being torn from British Gas progressively around the country. The household market in electricity will open in September, after the original start date of April was delayed.

ScottishPower has a few allies as it makes the pitch for UK utility domination, mainly through marketing links with the TUC, the AA and the National Farmers' Union. The questions in the industry are whether energy will prove to be a vigorous marketplace, or whether apathy will hold sway, and whether any money will be made. The gas market has so far been hailed as a success, but it is not thought that many companies have made money from their costly courting of the household market.

Many are expected to have lost substantial sums. And this in an area where the margins are far healthier than those possible in electricity.

However, as the battlelines are drawn, ScottishPower is confident that it will bring to a successful end the plan started nearly three years ago when it became the first electricity company to bid for another power business — and the only one to be allowed to do so by the Government. When ScottishPower bid for Manweb, it unleashed a vigorous debate on how the electricity industry should develop.

The industry had been carved into 16 pieces for its privatisation in 1990. Whether the new companies should be allowed to reconstitute in order to make savings was a contentious issue. In the case of ScottishPower and Manweb, the takeover also

brought into sharp focus the issue of huge job losses which had swept through the industry. More than 1,350 jobs went from the business in 1995, after Manweb implemented a scorched earth defence, and ScottishPower, as soon as it passed the door of the Cheshire-based utility, cut a few hundred jobs in the first swathe of a longer-term cost-savings move.

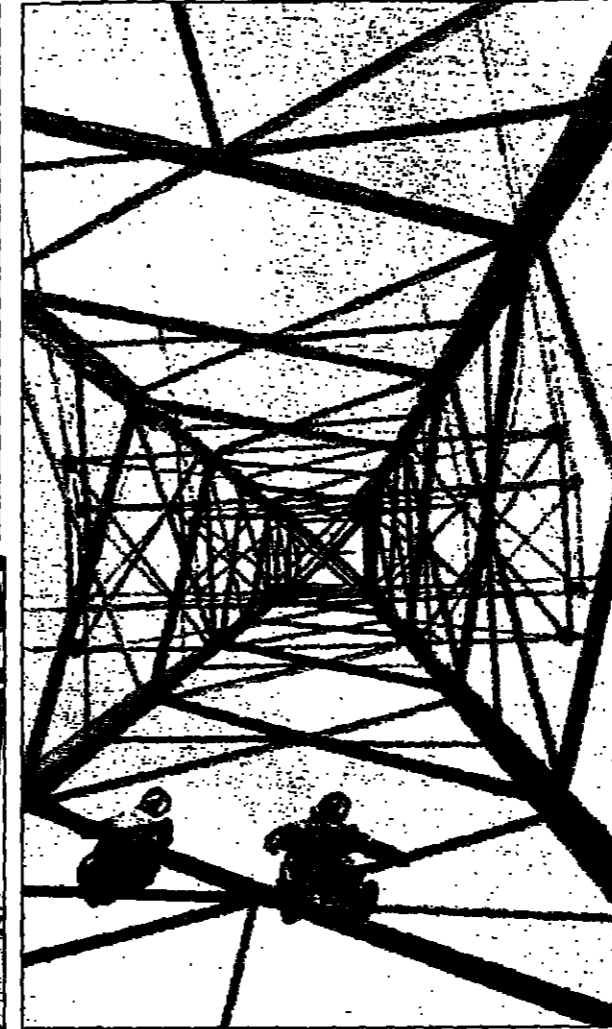
ScottishPower won the argument over consolidation in spite of being a vertically integrated company — having generation, distribution and supply and so moving electricity from the power station to the wall socket. This was later to be the chagrin of the two large English generators, which, without supply businesses, were blocked in their attempts to buy regional companies.

Ian Robinson, chief executive, says the board never feared that its aspirations for Manweb would hit opposition. He said: "A lot was spoken about vertical integration. I think people thought we were coming down with some sort of big tartan cable. We were vertically integrated north of the border, but not in England."

Thus was laid one of the first stones in the restructuring of the industry — a move that fulfilled one of the hopes of Ian Russell, the finance director, when he joined the company from Tomkins three years ago. "When I came to ScottishPower I was attracted by not only the chance to shape the company but also, to a certain extent, the industry. It was always going to happen in broadly that direction. The opportunity we both saw in joining the company was to be there when it happened. Like with most industries, a number of relatively small companies couldn't be sustained, so when the golden shares came off, that was the trigger."

The onslaught on the regional electricity companies that ensued — largely from the US — was fully unleashed when the regulator published his second distribution price review. ScottishPower was swift to move on. Hardly had the paint dried on the new Manweb chief executive's office nameplate than that same person — Mike Kinski — was being lined up by the company to move in to Southern Water. Robinson and his team had earmarked Southern as a good catch, but, after the fight with the Manweb management for control of the company, ScottishPower was to find that the takeover of Southern was not going to be plain sailing.

There was a bidding war with Southern Electric to be fought. ScottishPower played on, unruffled by criticism that it was in danger of blowing apart its reputation for prudence and overpaying for the water company. It won with a



Powering ahead: Ian Russell, top left, and Ian Robinson have helped to shape the industry, not just ScottishPower; pylons carry electricity to a growing market; Manweb, the northwest company, was the first takeover target; the reservoirs of Southern Water were added a year later

Wales through the pool, it is keen to develop generation plant of its own south of the border. Meanwhile it has fought plans by PowerGen, the English generator, for a power station at Gartloch in Lanarkshire.

ScottishPower does not rule out seeking further blocks to add to its multi-utility game plan. Robinson, an experienced industrialist, says: "Soon someone is going to write the industrial rules. We will see what the energy policy is and what will happen in utility regulation. We have always looked at our portfolio and looked to get maximum value from it."

Maximising its existing assets now depends on the success of domestic competition. Four fifths of British Gas's customers remain loyal in areas where rivals offer cheap deals and there has been a substantial delay to competition in the electricity market. ScottishPower is also soon to lose some of its management firepower when Kinski leaves to become Stagecoach chief executive in April.

Players of Risk will know that it takes a long time to complete and then the winner can be left with precious few assets after winning the final battles.

ScottishPower scores maximum points in the "fatcat" league, thanks to its non-executive directors, who fall within the acceptable limit and are paid well below average. Robinson was paid £450,000 in 1996-97, making him 16.5 per cent underpaid.

Integrity Works notes that ScottishPower's approach to ethical expression is based on a credible values statement emphasising what behaviour is acceptable and what is not; and chief executive speeches feature reference to the importance of high business conduct standards. But it feels it would be more in line with best practice for the company's ethical expression statements to spell out the specific mechanisms used to monitor ethical behaviour.

**CHRISTINE BUCKLEY**

Ethical expression	8/10
Fat-cat quotient	10/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	7/10
Attitude to employees	8/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	9/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	8/10
Future prospects	7 1/2/10
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 1/2/100</b>

Ethical policy is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

**WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY**

"Out of the three multi-utilities, they have done the least worst compared with the high-profile problems at United Utilities and the concerns over Hyder. But 1998 (and the opening of the domestic electricity market to competition along with the completion of competition in gas) will be the test. It is the year when we will see whether sufficient numbers switch supplier to make the multi-utility strategy work."

*Nigel Hawkins, Williams de Broe*

"The strategy is working well. The question is whether anyone will make money out of it. Unlike the other multi-utilities, ScottishPower has gone out of its region and acquired a large customer base."

*Simon Taylor, Salomon Bros*

"Management is going to be a key factor in a deregulating market and that is where ScottishPower will prove to be strong."

*Philip Green, Goldman Sachs*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers from page 38**

**HAMAN'S EARS**  
(a) Formerly Haman's fritters, fritters or cakes eaten by the Jews at the festival of Purim. Haman was the chief minister of Ahasuerus who was hanged on the gallows prepared for Mordecai.

**MIETIE**  
(c) Kissa's cuckoo, a bronze and green cuckoo, found in the southern part of Africa. Onomatopoeic, echoic of its call.

**NOA**  
(a) An expression substituted for a taboo word or phrase. A euphemism. Hawaiian (Maori, Tahitian) *noa* (something) free from taboo, ordinary.

**KYU**  
(c) In Judo or Karate, the Japanese name for the grade given to the less proficient.

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1 Qxg8! Kxg8 2 e7 and a pawn will promote.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.57	2.39	Japan Yen	219.43
Austria Sch	21.80	20.14	Malta	0.682
Belgium Fr	64.20	59.24	Netherlands Gld	3.523
Canada \$	2.482	2.294	New Zealand \$	2.99
Cyprus Cyp£	0.918	0.841	Norway Kr	12.92
Denmark Kr	11.85	10.98	Portugal Esc	315.03
Finland Mk	9.51	8.76	S Africa Rd	8.78
France Fr	10.37	9.59	Spain Ptas	261.79
Germany Dm	3.12	2.89	Sweden Kr	14.03
Greece Dr	494	455	Switzerland Fr	2.54
Hong Kong \$	13.60	12.40	Turkey Lira	369943
Iceland	131	111	USA \$	1.757
Ireland Pt	1.29	1.15		
Israel Shk	6.30	5.65		
Italy Lira	3095	2868		

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Investec Securities is authorised to announce that GFCoil has issued 1 143 555 ordinary shares in terms of the capitalisation award to shareholders registered at 12.00 on Wednesday 31 December 1997 determined by the ratio that 95 cents bore to the average closing price of the company's shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange ("the JSE") for the three business days ended Thursday, 29 January 1998 (the closing price - R14.47). The number of new ordinary shares to which shareholders are entitled is, therefore, 6,565,3075 shares for every 100 shares held. Instead of the capitalisation award, shareholders were entitled, in respect of all or part of their shareholdings, to elect to renounce their entitlement to the capitalisation award to the underwriter in exchange for a cash equivalent dividend of 90 cents per share ("the election").

Shareholders holding 3 274 735 ordinary shares elected to renounce their entitlement to the capitalisation award in favour of the underwriter.

Accordingly, the issued ordinary share capital of the company has increased by 1 143 555 ordinary shares from 17 418 158 ordinary shares to 18 561 713 ordinary shares.

**Listing of new ordinary shares**  
The 1 143 555 new ordinary shares will be listed on the JSE with effect from today.

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the listing of the new shares.

**Posting of share certificates and cheques**  
Share certificates in respect of the new ordinary shares and cheques in respect of the election/fractional entitlements will be posted to the respective shareholders today.

**Sponsoring broker**  
Investec Securities  
Incorporating Fergusson Bros  
Established 1895  
Member of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange  
Registration number 72/08905/06

Johannesburg <http://www.goldfields.co.za>

6 February 1998

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 1998

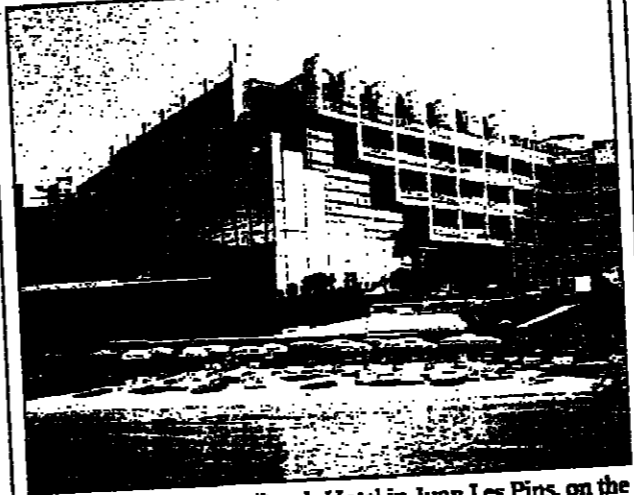
# South-East Asia crisis hits Meyer's timber disposal

MEYER International, the UK timber importer and builders' merchant, has been hit by the Asian crisis and is warning the City of one-off losses on some activities because of plunging timber prices (Richard Miles writes).

Meyer has told analysts that it expects exceptional losses on its softwood and sheet materials business, which is being sold, because of the currency crisis in South-East Asia. The prices of softwood and plywood, which are imported mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, has fallen by 30 per cent since the region went into financial meltdown. Meyer's big stocks of softwood and plywood tumbled in value.

Such losses in the softwood and plywood operation threaten to undermine plans by Alan Peterson, Meyer's chief executive, to dispose of the business through a £45 million sale to its management. Morgan Grenfell, the investment bank backing the buyout, is understood to have pulled out of the deal. Andersen Consulting, which is organising the buyout, is thought to have asked to act as white knight.

Mr Peterson said he saw no reason why the sale of the business should not be completed. However, City analysts say the business may have to announce the loss a third of its profits, which were around £10 million last year, just as a deal nears preparation.



The four-star Garden Beach Hotel in Juan Les Pins, on the Côte d'Azur, is one of two management contracts won by Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts, the chain owned by Granada

# Investcorp makes a record return

INVESTCORP, the investment bank behind the £476 million purchase of the Welcome Break service station chain, made a record net profit of \$108.6 million (£65.4 million) last year (Adam Jones writes).

Operating income at the Bahrain-based bank, which is backed by a group of Gulf investors, was \$238.9 million (£143.9 million). Having bought Welcome Break, Investcorp placed a "substantial portion" of the company's equity with its Gulf clients.

Investcorp would not say whether it is keen to acquire Roadchef, the motorway services operator that has a 17 per cent share of the UK market. Gary Long, chief financial officer, said Welcome Break had fulfilled expectations since it was bought last February. Other investments held by Investcorp and its clients include a stake in Saks Fifth Avenue, the US retailer. They are perhaps best known for their involvement in Gucci, turning round the luxury brand before a successful flotation.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET table with columns for High, Low, Mid cap, Price, Mkt cap, etc. for various companies.

Advertisement for iiyama flat screen LCD monitors. Text: "With property prices rising so fast, it's good to see an affordable flat in the city". Image of a monitor. Text: "The new iiyama flat screen LCD 14.1" TFT Prolite 36, an amazing £999 (plus vat)". iiyama monitoring business logo.

Advertisement for CARLTON Enterprise Fair. Text: "MISS JELICOE - WHEN I SAID HOLD MY HAND IT WAS IN THE SENSE OF GUIDING ME IN THE SETTING UP OF MY OWN SMALL BUSINESS...". Image of a cartoon character. Text: "How to set up in business (and survive)... Free advice from leading business organisations. Free Seminars covering finance, tax, export, computers, advertising and marketing. Free individual business counselling. Fri 13 Feb 10am-8pm, Sat 14 Feb 10am-6pm. New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen St, Covent Garden, WC2. Carlton Enterprise Fair Hotline: 0171 757 7030 http://enterprise98.carltontv.co.uk"



# Fair stands the wind for France?

Britain and France are inclined to eye each other up, each seeing the other as a sort of benchmark, rather like two old schoolfriends who keep in touch over the years and compare progress. Last Friday's news that British manufacturing output fell in December reinforced the impression that we may be on the brink of a slowdown. Meanwhile, the French economy seems to be picking up. Yet this is no time to cast envious eyes across the Channel. Underneath the surface, France is struggling. How its crisis is resolved will have big implications for Britain.

On the face of it, France is not doing too badly. Its economy grew by more than 2 per cent last year and will probably grow faster this year. The country remains the world's fourth-largest economy, with a GDP per head considerably higher than Britain's. However, the 1990s have been dismal. While Britain enjoyed strong growth, once released from the shackles of the ERM, France has only managed to crawl along.

The result is an alarmingly high level of unemployment — some 12 per cent of the French workforce. The underlying picture, however, is even bleaker. Last year's

economic recovery was driven mainly by exports. Domestic consumption barely grew at all and investment fell slightly. Personal incomes are squeezed as national income shifts towards profits, while the state absorbs a large chunk through taxation. And people are scared. They realise that, grim though the current position is, their country is yet to go through the major structural adjustment that we underwent in the 1980s. This makes them hesitant about spending and deters companies from investing.

What is to be done? According to the authorities, very little. They have staked everything on the policy of presenting themselves as more German than the Germans. After the ERM crisis of 1992, there were opportunities to follow a policy of low interest rates and a weaker exchange rate, while still adhering to the objective of forging a monetary union. However, this course was rejected. Unemployment, it was argued, had nothing to do with deficient demand; it was "structural". This flies in the face of British and American experience, which shows that in today's conditions, unemployment can fall to levels recently thought unimaginable without trigger-



ROGER BOOTLE

ing higher inflation. Never mind. The French establishment has created a climate in which to question *la pensée unique* is tantamount to treason.

So the policymakers' hands are tied — with their express consent. The exchange rate is rigid against the mark; interest rates are locked to whatever the Bundesbank decides; budgetary policy is dictated by the need to stay within the Maastricht limits on the deficit.

As a result, to address France's rising anger over unemployment, the Government is forced to resort to quasi-remedies, such as the imposition of a 35-hour week. Even if workers agree to corresponding reductions in wages (which is in doubt), this will do nothing to reduce the cost of labour per hour and therefore nothing to stimulate demand for it. Its

role will simply be to redistribute the work, thereby reinforcing the blatantly silly, but still widely held, view that there is a fixed amount of work to go round.

Accordingly, the establishment is tempted to play double or quits on the euro. The people are being told that the great prize for which they have sacrificed so much — monetary union — is almost at hand. Supposedly, it will create an upsurge of economic opportunities. This represents a cruel deception. EMU could eventually bring a boost to European prosperity, although I am sceptical. But if it does, the reason will be because European business is forced to restructure and consolidate, unleashing a wave of job losses. Indeed, this would represent Europe's own version of the forces of globalisation, which so many people fear and against which the euro is supposed to provide a shield.

There is, however, the hope of a silver lining. One reason why the French economy is currently enjoying a recovery is that the mark has fallen sharply on the exchanges, thereby making French exports more competitive. If only the euro is allowed to become a weak currency, these gains can be extended. But will the European Central Bank accept a

weak euro? And will other leading countries accept a weak euro, rather than resisting it by allowing their currencies to fall as well? Currency weakness could well be good news for Britain because it would imply the pound becoming still more uncompetitive.

If the weak-euro strategy does not work for France, there is one more shot left in the locker — budgetary policy. That will supposedly be tightly constrained by the German-inspired stability pact. However, once the euro deal is done, will France and the other countries adhere to the spirit and the letter of the pact? Imposing on a country such as France the large fines that the pact lays down as a penalty for budgetary misdemeanours may be easier said than done. If it ever comes to this, there will be a row between France and Germany of enormous proportions.

In those conditions, one distinctive aspect of French society would take on acute significance, namely the existence of an extreme right-wing party that regularly has the support of about 15 per cent of the electorate. If France does manage to overtake Britain in the growth league this year, there could be reasons for us to be thankful.

# Putting British business at a competitive disadvantage

John Redwood argues that proposed changes to competition law will remove democratic controls

The Government is planning a radical change to competition law. Margaret Beckett at the Department of Trade and Industry has already given more responsibility to Brussels to settle cases for us. Now she is introducing a Competition Bill which will convert our competition law to European style, and delegate many remaining powers to a new Competition Authority.

The Competition Bill sums up this Government's approach to its responsibilities. The Bill gives away a lot of the Government's powers to Brussels, and the rest of the task to a quango. Margaret Beckett wants to wash her hands of the difficult task of deciding whether bids and deals can go ahead or not, and she wishes to ignore the questions of which common business practices are reasonable and which are anti-competitive.

Yet again the worries of business have been brushed aside or ignored. The new Bill leaves people unclear about what they can and cannot do. If they carry on doing something which is legal at the moment but which the authorities decide is not legal under the new law, they can be fined retrospectively. The fine can be as high as 10 per cent of turnover.

The authorities have decided that they need greatly strengthened powers to collect the evidence. Inspectors will be allowed to break the door to your office or home down, when searching for papers to convict you. These are draconian powers for civil rather than criminal offences. I could understand them for cases of drug dealing or fraud but not for what might be only technical infringements of competition law.

Mrs Beckett seems to have no understanding of the confusion her proposals are causing, and certainly has no answers to the many reasonable questions businesses are now asking.

Under present law, resale price maintenance for over-the-counter medicines is legal. The many small pharmacies up and down the country believe that this guaranteed price and margin enables them to stay in business, and provide the out-of-hours services that people value. It seems clear that the new law would prohibit such a practice. Small pharmacies have



Time gentlemen please: will the Competition Bill change the face of the British pub?

happy with the current arrangements. They would like the competition authorities to intervene on their side. The problem with this Bill is that it does not provide an answer; it threatens the existing arrangements without proposing anything better or safer. The last time the Government interfered with the brewing industry — in a less dramatic way — the publicans felt the interference made things worse. This more dramatic change could do so again.

The newspaper industry also has its worries. At the moment newspapers are supplied with recommended prices on a sale or return basis to a limited number of newsagents in each area. This system too could be forced to change under the new law.

Maybe new newsagents would have to be allowed supply if they wanted it. Maybe supermarkets would indulge in price cutting, driving many small newsagents out of business. Maybe the Government thinks this is a good thing. All I ask is that it should tell us if this is what it wants. If not, it should amend its Bill.

Mrs Beckett has already given a lot of ground to Brussels. In many important cases the British jurisdiction now just acts as a lobbyist or observer of the European competition authorities. The new law adopts the provisions of the European Union as British competition law. Meanwhile, matters like the relationship between the brewer and pub, hammered out painfully at home, are now also the object

of separate discussion and review in Brussels. The DTI claims that the new law would remove overlap and conflict between London and Brussels. This is not true. Not all separate British competition law is being repealed, and a large new Competition Authority is being established in Britain. There are bound to be times when this body misunderstands Brussels' wishes, even if it is primarily motivated by doing Brussels' bidding. What should Mrs Beckett do to get out of her hole? The simplest thing would be to abandon her Bill, and set out a new concordat with Brussels over who does what. Business needs to know who is in charge of which cases. The idea of the Merger Regulation was to achieve just that: to lay down parameters where a deal was dealt with by Brussels leaving everything else to national jurisdiction.

Given that so fundamental a rethink is unlikely from this minister, she could table amendments to her Bill. If she stated that where vertical ties and resale price maintenance currently exist they can continue to do so, that would help. She could then pledge the new Competition Authority to review each in turn where either the industry or customers thought that necessary, to propose changes for the future. That would remove the unwelcome sword of Damocles that is hanging over people's heads, remove retrospective fines and give the Government time to think through what it really wants to do. To do anything less is to create carnage in many industries for no good reason.

Competition is one of many areas where the way we are governed is being changed fundamentally and quickly, often without people realising. Ten years ago the President of the Board of Trade had real power over the British corporate sector. Decisions taken had to be explained to Parliament; the minister could be lobbied by interested parties, there was democratic control. In ten years' time, if we go ahead with this measure, most of the power will be in Brussels. There will be no democratic scrutiny of it, and little point in lobbying a British minister. The author is Shadow President of the Board of Trade

# Life-threatening dramas

Great Escapes  
ITV, 8.30pm

Cynics will say that here is yet another series feeding the public appetite for enjoying the distress of others. The riposte, no doubt, is that all these life-threatening incidents had a happy ending. The show certainly gives value for money. No fewer than 11 near-tragedies are packed into the half hour. Moreover, we see footage of them all as they are happening. There are no actors, no reconstructions. Most of the material, for some reason, comes from Australia or the United States and the hazards include a fire, a shark, a whale and a torrential river. The strangest episode involves a jockey who is unseated by his horse but manages to jump on another. Our host is the racing driver, Martin Brundle, whose qualification for the task is surviving a 180mph crash in the Australian Grand Prix.

The Pleasure Beach  
BBC1, 9.30pm

Horrible for those involved but a gift for this documentary is an anonymous phone call to Blackpool Police that a bomb has been planted in the Pleasure Beach amusement park and is due to go off in 45 minutes. Jim Rowland, the man in charge, has to take a decision you would wish on nobody. Either he tells the 15,000 visitors and risks injuries in a panic evacuation, or he says nothing, orders a safety check and hopes that the call is a hoax. The cameras capture his rage as his anguish as he watches the 45 minutes tick by. Meanwhile Joanne Conway, star of the ice show, is on edge for a different reason. She is a skater good enough to have taken part in the Olympics but has a reputation for falling over. Susanna is not so much apprehensive as hysterical. Although terrified of heights she takes a ride on the rollercoaster, hoping to win a prize on a Portuguese game show.

Children of Divorce  
BBC2, 9.30pm

Nearly a quarter of British children will experience divorce by the age of 16, so this three-part series has, sadly, plenty of witnesses to choose from. It is a child's eye view of divorce told from first hand experience by youngsters from the age of six



Aftermath of divorce (BBC2, 9.30pm)

upwards. The first programme covers the start of the process when the parents split and one of them (in the majority of cases the father) leaves home. Children speak of being woken at night by mum and dad shouting at each other, of feeling confused and insecure as the family breaks up and of having dreams, or, more likely, nightmares about it long afterwards. Some kids describe being landed with the household chores. But there is much resilience and little bitterness.

Face to Face  
BBC2, 11.15pm

Do not imagine that because he is no longer reporting wars, Martin Bell can reflect on the experience with any measure of detachment. His conversation with Sir Jeremy Isaacs bristles with passion, particularly when the subject is Bosnia. It was not just the atrocities, the worst in any war he had covered from Vietnam onwards, but the frustrations of trying to tell the truth about them. Bell is scathing about his erstwhile employer, the BBC, for being happy to show soldiers blazing away with rifles but not the grief of mothers who had lost their sons nor the blood on the snow where a British aid worker had been murdered. On his new job as MP for Tamon, Bell is level-headed and humble, and reveals that he was only the third choice as the Mr. Clean candidate after Richard Branson and Terry Waite. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

The Brit Awards Live  
Radio 1, 8.40pm

I had but typed the title of this programme before I heard the crash of the age barrier coming down and the thunder of a thousand readers retreating. But wait this is an awards bash that carries universal appeal. Those who ardently listen to pop music find *The Brits* unmissable as a barometer of what is in vogue in our pop music scene. It is a showcase for who was in and out over the past year while those who roundly detest pop music should give the programme at least half an hour to have their prejudices confirmed. There is usually some yobbish behaviour at the Brits, orchestrated by a publicist. The host is the comedian Ben Elton and those of us who still carry a torch for melody will hope The Verve win something.

Book at Bedtime:  
The Nation's Favourite Love Poetry  
Radio 4, 10.45pm

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. From the opening lines of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonnet this is an awards bash that carries universal appeal. Those who ardently listen to pop music find *The Brits* unmissable as a barometer of what is in vogue in our pop music scene. It is a showcase for who was in and out over the past year while those who roundly detest pop music should give the programme at least half an hour to have their prejudices confirmed. There is usually some yobbish behaviour at the Brits, orchestrated by a publicist. The host is the comedian Ben Elton and those of us who still carry a torch for melody will hope The Verve win something.

## RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo While 12.05 News 1.00 The Chart Show 1.30 News 2.00 The Chart Show 2.30 News 3.00 The Chart Show 3.30 News 4.00 The Chart Show 4.30 News 5.00 The Chart Show 5.30 News 6.00 The Chart Show 6.30 News 7.00 The Chart Show 7.30 News 8.00 The Chart Show 8.30 News 9.00 The Chart Show 9.30 News 10.00 The Chart Show 10.30 News 11.00 The Chart Show 11.30 News 12.00 The Chart Show 12.30 News 1.00 The Chart Show 1.30 News 2.00 The Chart Show 2.30 News 3.00 The Chart Show 3.30 News 4.00 The Chart Show 4.30 News 5.00 The Chart Show 5.30 News 6.00 The Chart Show 6.30 News 7.00 The Chart Show 7.30 News 8.00 The Chart Show 8.30 News 9.00 The Chart Show 9.30 News 10.00 The Chart Show 10.30 News 11.00 The Chart Show 11.30 News 12.00 The Chart Show 12.30 News 1.00 The Chart Show 1.30 News 2.00 The Chart Show 2.30 News 3.00 The Chart Show 3.30 News 4.00 The Chart Show 4.30 News 5.00 The Chart Show 5.30 News 6.00 The Chart Show 6.30 News 7.00 The 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This was a bridge, strings and bow too far

How nice, I thought, a virtuoso American cellist taking an interest in the Winter Olympics. Why Torvill and Dean?

Both worked with strict forms and through that they were able to find unbelievable freedom and depth of expression.

Music was wonderful and Torvill and Dean waltzed dreamily in balletic silhouette around a well-disguised Oxford ice-rink.



Matthew Bond

As just like the real thing; or the unreal thing. 'We're trying to show something in film that doesn't exist, except in our minds.'

London's Burning strangehold enjoyed by ITV, Sunday night just isn't happening at the moment. Friday night, however, is.

expect, together with some very nice performances from the likes of Tim Healy, Susan Hampshire and Rebecca Callard.

- BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (30739)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (17842)
9.00 All Over the Shop (863208)

- BBC2
6.10am An A to Z of English (882161) 6.35
7.00 See 'Real' News (T) and singing
7.25 See Peter (T) (91064)

- HTV
6.00am GMTV (875557)
9.25 Wn, Lose or Draw (T) (8653538)

- CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8091245)

- CHANNEL 4
7.00am The Big Breakfast (27227)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (T)

- CHANNEL 5
6.00am 5 News Early (7300915)
7.00 Exclusive (T) (4058199) 7.30 Mitchell

For further listings see Saturday's Vision
SKY1
7.00am Street Sharks (8977) 7.30 Bump

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm Annie Oakley (1946) (729486)
6.30 The (1986) (6859) 6.55 The

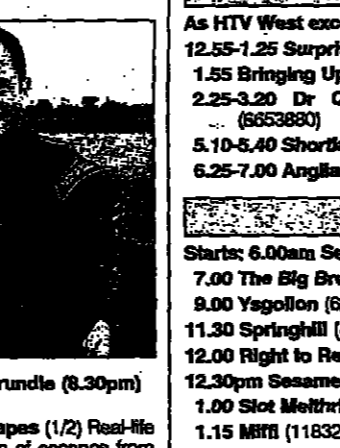
SKY SPORTS 3
12.00pm PGA Golf (9022287) 3.00 Ice

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00pm Licenses to Drive (1986) (7847)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.00pm License to Drive (1986) (7847)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 3
6.00pm License to Drive (1986) (7847)

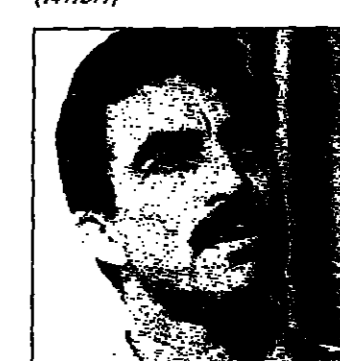
SKY MOVIES SCREEN 4
6.00pm License to Drive (1986) (7847)



Presenter Martin Brundle (8.30pm)



Comedian Kenny Everett (8.00pm)



Tom Selleck stars (8.00pm)

8.30 Great Escapes (1/2) Real-life video action of escapes from death and disaster

8.00 Heroes of Comedy: Kenny Everett A celebration of the work of Kenny Everett

8.00 The Great House Game Eric Knowles hosts the restoration challenge game from Sudeley Castle

SATELLITE AND CABLE

0 (868777) 12.00 Connection 5 (7473198)
12.30pm Families (475557) 1.00

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COMPANIES 43

Shell and BP find the going tough

BUSINESS

EURO PLAY 46

Roger Bootle on the French connection



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 1998

ICS sues society in home income plans test case

HUNDREDS of elderly homeowners struggling under £4 million of debt brought on by home income plans...

Bromwich financed through Fisher Prew Smith, one of its tied agents which went into liquidation in 1991.

Savings and Bretton Financial Services. HIPS were mortgages designed to help the elderly to release up to 50 per cent of the equity locked in their homes...

prices plummeted and interest rates were at a high. To make matters worse, almost half the planholders suffered huge losses after investing their money in bonds chosen by Fisher Prew Smith.

accumulating interest. They allege that West Bromwich knew the advice FFS was giving was bad and that the plans being sold were fundamentally unsound.

that ultimately led to the establishment of the Financial Services Authority last year. Fimbria, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Association...

BT in talks to find new US partner

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

BT is talking with four big American telecommunications businesses in an attempt to find a replacement for the MCI takeover that was derailed last year.

will, to a considerable extent, dictate the pace of BT's efforts. Legally, BT cannot go ahead with any new partner until the WorldCom-MCI deal is formally completed.

spite a report that C&W has reassembled the investment banking team used for the failed merger in 1996. BT is sensitive to the notion that WorldCom has in any way dealt a fatal blow to its overall strategy...



Powerful image: this picture of the sumo wrestler Konishiki, The Dumptruck, is Allsport's most popular image

Allsport snapped up by Getty

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

GETTY Communications has boosted its ambition to become one of the world's biggest providers of visual images and still and moving footage...

which are available 24 hours a day. The Allsport deal will be finalised this week, at the same time as the likely completion of the merger between Getty Communications and PhotoDisc...

will start on Nasdaq, the US stock market. Getty Communications was set up in 1995 by two London bankers, Mark Getty, a son of J Paul Getty, and Jonathan Klein...

million in new shares in Getty Images. Getty Communications yesterday announced results for 1997 with revenues, on a currency neutral basis, up 23 per cent to £61.5 million.

Decision time for Railtrack link bid

By Carl McKishid

RAILTRACK'S board will decide this week whether to put forward a rescue bid for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link aimed at building the fast rail route in stages and saving the Government money on the £5.4 billion project.

A board meeting of the rail utility on Thursday will debate the financing of the rephased project which would involve building a high speed link from the tunnel to North Kent.

Railtrack denied yesterday that it had teamed up with Virgin to launch a new bid for the project. The company said preliminary talks had taken place with Virgin and other members of the troubled London & Continental Railways consortium.

A phased construction will avoid the initial expense of going under the Thames and tunnelling under large tracts of East London to reach the proposed rail terminal at St Pancras. Track access charges on a part-high speed link would enable Railtrack to finance the remainder of the link to a terminus in North London.

British banker to head Indonesian debt rescue talks

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

DAVID BROUGHAM, a director of Standard Chartered, is expected to chair a committee of Indonesian creditors that will meet this week to try to resolve Indonesia's crippling corporate debt problems.

posure estimated at \$3 billion. The two largest, Standard Chartered and HSBC, are thought to have loans of about \$2 billion at risk. Indonesia's Government has resisted pressure from the private sector to provide funds to help to bail out troubled companies. It has also made clear that it will not seek to negotiate a single package to roll over all short-term private debts.

Burger King 'not for sale'

Diageo, the food and drinks conglomerate formed by the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, yesterday denied a report that it intended to sell Burger King, the restaurant chain, later in the year.

The sale of Burger King became a hot topic during negotiations last year with Bernard Arnault, head of the LVMH group, who last year initially opposed the merger plans of Guinness and GrandMet.

The French drinks magnate had proposed a spin-off of GrandMet's food interests, which included Burger King and Pillsbury, arguing in favour of a pure drinks group.

A report yesterday suggested that Burger King would be sold for £2 billion to its management.

Medium-sized British businesses are gradually coming around to the idea of European monetary union, according to a survey of a single European currency, while a third are against. The result is a substantial turnaround from last year, when a minority of less than a third were in favour.

British businesses lag behind their rivals on the Continent in the speed with which they settle bills with suppliers, according to a European league table from Dun & Bradstreet, the credit information agency. In Britain, barely a quarter of bills are paid promptly, against a European average of almost 40 per cent and a figure of almost three in five in Germany.

Pearson eyes £2.4bn Simon & Schuster

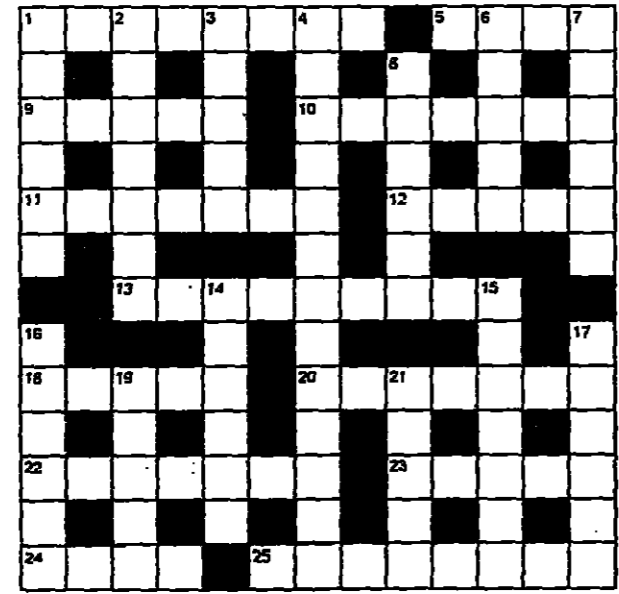
PEARSON, the media conglomerate, is considering a \$4 billion (£2.4 billion) bid for Simon & Schuster, the US educational publisher, once financial details on the company are made available from its parent, Viacom.

Bertelsmann of Germany, are known to be interested. Any purchase would be the first big acquisition by Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, who took over last year.

Viacom is selling Simon & Schuster to cut its burgeoning debts. The publisher would combine well with Pearson's Addison Wesley Longman educational books offshoot, analysts say, while publishing is an area into which the group, owner of Penguin Books, is keen to expand.

Advertisement for NEC monitors featuring a large image of a monitor and the text '16 MILLION COLOURS NEEDN'T PUT YOU IN THE RED'.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1324

- ACROSS: 1 Bog, entanglement (8); 5 Soothing ointment (4); 9 Berks, town, race-track (5); 10 Tolkien; to oppose (7); 11 Spiny ant eater (7); 12 Indifferent gesture (5); 13 Place for final resistance (4,5); 18 (See) rise and fall; reth (5); 20 Headache pill (7); 22 A language; a type of roulette (7); 23 Animal herd; goes with Prejudice (5); 24 Children; will be themselves (4); 25 Element No 1 (8)

- DOWN: 1 Short note; speak shakily (6); 2 Intoxicant (7); 3 Beaten at chess (5); 4 Buchan hero; run hardy chain (anag) (7,6); 6 Place of sacrifice, marriage (5); 7 Optical illusion (6); 8 Garment-strengthening insert (6); 14 Attractive (countryside) (6); 15 Having a fling; fr. game (7); 16 Angelic child (6); 17 Invisible; piece of translation (6); 19 Test (metal) for purity (5); 21 Writing, reading material (5)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement listing various titles and prices.

Vertical text on the left margin: ar en se sh tic co st m Cc ur pr Tt Gt sel a wd dij wh to wic an bu as ke w If thi nk th un fin ca tu ed str the be yo wif no sic th un dri for cal tio no slo ing are abi no pri the Th up bel pri the pro vic see wor tice

Handwritten Arabic text: كذا من اليمين